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MEMORIALS

OF

OLD VIRGINIA CLERKS,

ARRANGED

ALPHABETICALLY BY COUNTIES,

WITH

COMPLETE INDEX OF NAMES,

AND

DATES OF SERVICE FROM 1634 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

COMPILED BY F. JOHNSTON,

FORMERLY CLERK OF ROANOKE COUNTY.

LYNCHBURG, VA.:
J. P. BELL COMPANY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1888.

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PREFACE AND DEDICATION.

THERE will be found in this volume the names and dates of service, of more than *eight hundred* clerks, who have held office in every county in the State of Virginia, going back to the year 1634, when the colony of the Old Dominion was divided into eight counties or shires, then named respectively, Charles City, Elizabeth City, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Warwick and York.

From these have been formed all the counties in the State at different times, which will appear in alphabetical order, each county showing the date of its formation, from what county or counties formed, and the names and dates of service of the clerks from the beginning, so far as they can now be procured. Owing to the fact that a considerable number of the clerk's offices and public records have been destroyed by fire and otherwise, some of these lists are necessarily defective; but a sufficient number have been obtained to make a valuable contribution to the early and later history of the State.

About one hundred *memorials* or *biographical sketches* have also been obtained, many of which will be found deeply interesting, as portraying the character of a number of men who were remarkable for their skill, intelligence, and usefulness as clerks, and some of whom have made up no small part of the history of the communities in which

they lived and flourished. Among these a few have been quite remarkable for the length of their service; as John Nicholas, the second clerk of Albemarle county, who held the office of clerk for the amazing period of *sixty-six years;* James Keith, of Frederick county, who held the office for *sixty-two years*, besides a dozen or more who held the office for more than fifty years. Without intending to be invidious, the following may be mentioned as exceptionally skillful clerks, or otherwise remarkable men, viz.: John Robinson, of Richmond city, who published a *Book of Forms* for clerks as early as 1798; Branch J. Worsham, of Prince Edward; Spottswood Garland, of Nelson; Rolfe Eldridge, of Buckingham, who, through John Rolfe, was a descendant of Pocahontas; Robert Hudgin, of Caroline, who, at the advanced age of eighty-six, does more or less work in his office every day, and was re-elected almost unanimously at the general election in May, 1887, for another term; James Rochelle, the accomplished clerk of Southampton for twenty years; Major John Wise, of Accomack, the father of Henry A. Wise; Col. S. McD. Reid, of Rockbridge; Col. Samuel Staples, and Col. A. Staples, of Patrick county; Thomas A. Tidball, of Frederick county; J. J. Burroughs, of Princess Anne county; Winslow Robinson, of Charlotte county; Francis Fitzgerald, of Nottoway county; Robert W. Christian, Edmund T. Christian, and Edmund Waddill, of Charles City county; Leroy G. Edwards and Arthur Emerson, of Norfolk; Henry J. Gamble, of Rockingham; Philip Williams, of Shenandoah; James Steptoe, for fifty-four years the clerk of Bedford county,

who was the college-mate and life-long friend of Thomas Jefferson, and was an historical character, being immortalized by William Wirt in his life of Patrick Henry as the clerk of the District Court, held at New London, before which Henry made his famous speech in the *John Hook* case. The office of clerk has been held by James Steptoe and his descendants for more than a hundred years. The same is true of the Millers of Goochland, the Wallers of Spotsylvania, the Chews of Fredericksburg, the Pollards of the three counties of Hanover, King William, and King and Queen, the Youngs of Isle of Wight, the Christians of Charles City, and some others. Several hundred autographs of the old clerks have been obtained, *fac similes* of which would have added to the interest of the volume, but finding that these would add very largely to the cost of publication, the author has felt constrained to limit the number to *fifty*, which will be found in their appropriate places.

And now, I dedicate this work, which has cost an amount of labor that few would be willing to undertake, to the descendants of these old clerks, whose memories I have in this way sought to rescue from oblivion, as belonging to a class of men who, in their own particular sphere, have occupied a high and honorable position in the annals of Virginia, and whose memories the present generation ought not willingly to let die, for, "take them for all in all, we ne'er shall look upon their like again." F. J.

OLD VIRGINIA CLERKS.

ACCOMACK COUNTY.

Accawmacke—as it was anciently spelt—is the northernmost of the two counties forming the "Eastern Shore of Virginia," which is cut off from the rest of the State by the Chesapeake Bay. The name is derived from a tribe of Indians who once inhabited this region. The earliest records in the clerk's office of Accomack county bear date in 1663, and begin with the following preface: "At a court held in Accomack county ye 21st Aprill by his Majesty's justices of the peace for ye said county in ye fifteenth year of the *Raigne* of our Sovreign Lord Charles ye Second by ye Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland—King, Defender of ye faith, and in ye year of our Lord God 1663. Present, Anto. Hodgkins, Capt. George Parker, Mr. Dev. Brown, Mr. West, Mr. John Wise." The proceedings of this court close with the following orders: "Ordered that ye next court be held ye 22d day of May at Mr. Anto. Hodgkins' house." "Ordered that ye sheriff give ye *clarke* notice then to attend ye court."

There is no reference to the appointment or commission of Robert Hutchinson, whose first signature as clerk appears May 23d, 1663, and his last September 25th, 1670; and he probably qualified in *Northampton*,

since, at the court held for Accomack on the date first given, the surveyors of the highways are directed to proceed in their work, according to orders made at Northampton March 23d, 1663.

The following order of court is copied from the records of 1674: "At a court held for ye upper part of Northampton, formerly called Accomack, November 16, 1670, Upon the Honorable the Secretary's word to Col. John Stringer, that Mr. Robert Hutchinson, late clerk of the county of Accomack, should desist from being any longer in the said office, and that the records of the said county should be delivered to the clerk of the court of the county of Northampton, which the said Hutchinson being unwilling to do, without an order from this court to impower the clerk of Northampton county to give him a discharge from the same, It is therefore ordered by the court that the said Mr. Hutchinson forthwith deliver all the said records to Mr. William Mettinge, clerk of the court of Northampton, hee giving a discharge for the same accordingly."

For some time during this period (1670 to 1674) the records are signed by Daniel Neech, deputy clerk Northampton; then by John Culpeper, clerk Northampton; again by Daniel Neech, deputy clerk Northampton; and after Accomack county commission in 1672–3, they are signed by Neech, deputy clerk Accomack; afterwards by Lord, deputy clerk Accomack; and for one court immediately preceding Washbourne, Lord signs himself clerk. That is supposed to have been after Culpeper's death. In appointing Mr. Francis Lord his deputy for Accomack in 1674, Culpeper states that he acts by virtue of a commission received by him

from Honorable Thomas Ludwell, Secretary of the Colony, to officiate as clerk, either by himself or his deputies, in any court or courts on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. (It would seem from this that the names of Accomack and Northampton were sometimes given interchangeably to both counties in their early history.)

In giving the names of the clerks of Accomack, we begin with—

1. Robert Hutchinson, from 1663 to 1670, - 7 years.
2. Francis Lord, from 1670 to 1674, - - 4 years.
3. John Washbourne, from 1674 to 1703, - 29 years.
4. Robert Snead, from 1703 to 1714, - - 11 years.
5. Charles Snead, from 1714 to 1727, - - 13 years.
6. John Jackson, from 1727 to 1737, - - 10 years.
7. George Holden, from 1737 to 1774, - - 37 years.
8. Littleton Savage, from 1774 to 1804, - 30 years.
9. Edmund Bayly, from 1804 to 1805, - - 1 year.
10. John Wise, from 1805 to 1812, - - - 7 years.
11. Richard D. Bayly, from 1812 to 1828, - 16 years.
12. Thomas R. Joynes, from 1828 to 1845, - 17 years.

    [☞ See below extracts from a memorial of him published in 1875 by his brother, Dr. Levin S. Joynes. He was clerk both of the county and superior or circuit courts.]

13. James J. Ailworth, from July, 1845, to January, 1850, - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
14. John W. Gillet, from January, 1850, to January, 1862, and again from May, 1865, to March, 1869, - - - - - 16 years.
    He was also circuit court clerk from 1865 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
15. John B. Ailworth, from 1862 to 1865, - 3 years.

16. Wm. H. B. Custis, from March, 1869, to July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - - 18 years.
Also circuit court clerk from 1869 to 1875.
17. Montcalm Oldham, Jr., was elected in May, 1887, clerk of county court. He had been clerk of the circuit court from 1875 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 12 years.
Rob't J. Poulson (circuit court) from 1848 to 1858, - - - - - - - - - - - 10 years.

John D. Grant was elected clerk of the circuit court in May, 1887, for a term of six years.

CLERKS OF ACCOMACK COUNTY.

Major John Wise, one of the old clerks of Accomack county was the oldest son of Col. John Wise, and his wife, Margaret Douglas. This Col. John Wise died in the year 1770, five years before the Revolutionary war began. He was a commissioned colonel of the King's militia, one of the King's justices for Accomack, and also county lieutenant, a kind of deputy to the colonial Governor, which each of the counties of Virginia had at that time. He was a great-grandson of still another John Wise, a native of England, who sailed from Gravesend, in that country, July 4th, 1635, and settled in Accomack, then Northampton, county, in what is called the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where he had granted to him extensive tracts of land; and afterwards, when Accomack was formed, in 1662, he was appointed amongst the very first of the King's justices for that county. This first John Wise who came from England and became the great-grandfather of Col. John Wise, who was the son of Major John Wise, the clerk of Accomack, was descended from Sir William

Wise, who belonged to one of the very oldest English families, as may be seen by consulting the pages of Burke's "Landed Gentry." Sir William Wise, besides being near related to John Russell, first Earl of Bedford, and who was considered the most accomplished man in England at that period, was also a blood relation of Lord Hunsdon, a nobleman who was noted for the blunt honesty of his character, and who was a first cousin to Queen Elizabeth. Sir Baldwin Fulford, an English Knight, who distinguished himself in the Crusades against the Saracens in the Holy Land, and who was a "great soldier," as Prince styles him in his book, entitled "Worthies of Devon," was the great, great, grandfather of Sir William Wise, one of Sir Baldwin Fulford's daughters, Thomasine, having married a John Wise, who was the great, great-grandfather of Sir William Wise, and consequently was the ancestor of the John Wise who came from England to Virginia in 1635. Moreover, Sir William Wise was himself a man of note, being so well known for his *wisdom and wit* that he was raised, on that account, to the order of Knighthood by King Henry VIII., and hence his title of Sir William.

Margaret Douglas, the wife of Col. John Wise, and the mother of Major John Wise, was a daughter of Col. George Douglas, a native of Scotland, who had settled in Accomack, was a lawyer by profession, and a descendant of the famous Earls of Angus, whose family name was Douglas, and who figured so conspicuously in Scottish history. One of the earliest of them, Sir George Douglas, Earl of Angus, married Mary, daughter of Robert III., King of Scotland; and from this Sir George Douglas and his wife, Mary, was descended,

through Archibald Douglas, the "great" Earl of Angus, (as he was called,) Col. George Douglas, the Scotch lawyer, who settled in Accomack, and whose daughter, Margaret, became the mother of Major John Wise. Some of the law books which belonged to Col. George Douglas are now in the possession of Honorable John S. Wise, of Richmond, Virginia, having come to him by inheritance, through Major Wise. They include some old English Reports, a *Natura Brevium* of the first edition, and a "Coke on Littleton," printed in 1629. Major John Wise, the clerk of Accomack, like his grandfather, Col. George Douglas, was educated to the profession of law, in the practice of which he acquired a considerable fortune, which, together with the large estate inherited by him from his father, Col. John Wise, made him one of the wealthiest men of his day on the entire Eastern Shore of Virginia. In 1790, he was elected to represent Accomack in the House of Delegates, and he continued to represent the county in that body by successive annual re-elections, for a period of ten years.

In 1798, and again in 1799, Major Wise was elected speaker of the House of Delegates, defeating for that position, in 1798, Wilson Cary Nicholas, who became so well known in Virginia as one of its Congressmen, United States Senator and Governor of the State. It was during the speakership of Major Wise, that the Legislature of Virginia passed its famous Resolutions of 1798–99. Besides Wilson Cary Nicholas, there served in the House of Delegates during the time that Major Wise was speaker, such eminent Virginians as Wm. H. Cabell, Wm. B. Giles and Littleton Waller Tazwell, each of whom afterwards became Governor

of the State, also Judge Stanard, of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and James Barbour, of the well-known Barbour family of Virginia. After the expiration of his second term of speakership, which was in 1800, Major Wise retired to Accomack, and continued the practice of the law, in connection with the management of his plantations, of which he owned no less than six, besides a large amount of personalty in the shape of slaves and other property. On the 28th of January, 1805, he was appointed commonwealth's attorney for Accomack, and so served until the 25th of November of the same year, when he was appointed and qualified as clerk of the county, (the commonwealth's attorneys and clerks of courts in those days being appointed instead of being elected, as at present). Major Wise continued to hold the office of clerk of Accomack until his death, which took place on the 30th of March, 1812, the very year in which the second war with Great Britain commenced. There are two pictures of Major John Wise now in existence, one of them being in the possession of John H. Wise, of San Francisco, California, the other in that of General Peyton Wise, of Richmond, Virginia. They show him to have had a fine, handsome face, a splendid forehead, and expressive, penetrating eyes. That he was a man of a very high order of ability and character, is not only clearly portrayed in the pictures themselves, but it is also evidenced by the facts that the people of Accomack continued him for so long a period as their representative in the House of Delegates, and that body twice chose him to be its speaker, though at the time it contained so many able and eminent men.

Major Wise was twice married, his first wife being

Mary Henry, a daughter of Judge James Henry, of Northumberland county, Virginia, one of the Judges of the General Court, as it was then called, though he had before been a Judge of the Admiralty, or first Court of Appeals of Virginia. Major Wise's first wife died August 9th, 1796. By her there were born four children, all sons, two of whom died in infancy. For his second wife Major Wise married Sarah Corbin Cropper, a daughter of General John Cropper, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Accomack, who was at the time a brigadier-general in the State militia, had been in the State Senate, and had also been an officer in the Revolutionary army under the command of Washington. General Cropper had entered the army at the age of nineteen as captain of a company, leaving, for that purpose, a young wife at home, to whom he had been married less than a year, and, by the time he had attained the age of twenty-one, he had risen to be colonel of the Eleventh Virginia regiment in General Woodford's brigade, the Marquis de La Fayette's division of Washington's army. General Cropper was in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Chad's Ford, Germantown and Monmouth. Leaving the army in 1779, General Cropper was afterwards given, by Washington, the command of the fourteen lower counties of Virginia, and while in this command, had two engagements with the enemy, in one of which he was severely wounded.

General Cropper was also the great-grandson of Sir Edmund Bowman, an English Knight, who had settled in Accomack, where he owned a fine estate which had descended to General Cropper by inheritance. By his second wife, Miss Cropper, who died January 21st,

1813. Major Wise had six children, five sons and one daughter. Two of the sons, like two of those by his first wife, also died in infancy. Still another son, who was the oldest child of his second wife, died unmarried the year after the death of Major Wise. Of the five remaining children by both wives, which Major Wise left to survive him and to inherit his estates, only four married, namely, three sons and the daughter. The late General Henry A. (who died in 1876, and who was so distinguished as an American statesman and orator, having been, for eleven years, a leading member of the United States Congress, then United States plenipotentiary to Brazil, Governor of Virginia, a general in the Confederate army, also author of a book entitled "Seven Decades of the Union," which has been so popular as to call for another edition after his death, and in honor of whom Wise county, Virginia, and Wise county, Texas, were named,) was a son of Major Wise by his second wife, Miss Cropper, having been born during the time that his father was clerk of Accomack, and his sons, Honorable John S. Wise, of Richmond, Virginia, ex-United States Congressman at large from Virginia, and Dr. R. A. Wise, of Williamsburg, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, are grandsons of Major Wise. John H. Wise, of San Francisco, and General Peyton Wise, of Richmond, (both alluded to above) and Honorable George D. Wise, at present a member of the United States Congress from the Richmond district, Virginia, are also grandsons of Major Wise by his second wife, Miss Cropper, they being among six sons now living of Major Wise's only daughter, Margaret Douglas Pettit Wise, who died in 1866, and who married her double second cousin,

Honorable Tully R. Wise, of Accomack, who, besides having been twice chosen to represent his county in the Virginia House of Delegates, held, at the time of his death, the position of first auditor of the United States Treasury, at Washington, D. C., and who, like Major Wise himself, was descended from both the first John Wise, who came from England and settled in Accomack, and through him from the old English Wises, and also from Colonel George Douglas, the Scotch lawyer, and through him from the Douglas family of Scotland, though, in each case, exactly one degree remoter than Major Wise. Besides those already mentioned, there are a number of other descendants of Major Wise now living in different States of the Union, some of whom are now holding, and others have held, high and honorable public positions.

Major John Wise now lies buried in his native county of Accomack, among several of his ancestors, on a farm called Clifton, which, during his life-time, was one of his estates, and which formed a part of one of his estates which had been granted to the first John Wise, who came from England to Accomack in 1635.

THOMAS R. JOYNES.

A very interesting "Memorial" of Thos. R. Joynes (who was the twelfth clerk of Accomack county, from 1828 to 1845) was published in pamphlet form, in the year 1875, by his brother, Dr. Levin R. Joynes, professor in the Medical College of Richmond, a copy of which has recently come into the hands of F. J., from which he is permitted to make a number of brief extracts, in which the leading events of his life are given, and some that illustrate the leading features of his

admirable character. It will be seen that in his case the rule that, so far as I know, has prevailed in every other case, was reversed. Many of the most eminent judges, lawyers, and even governors (as Governor David Campbell) of Virginia had their early training in a clerk's office; while Thos. R. Joynes had no such training, but entered at an early age upon the practice of the law, and rose to great distinction in that profession before his appointment as *clerk*, the duties of which office he discharged with great fidelity and acceptance to the courts and to the people for about twenty years.

"Thomas Robinson Joynes, son of Colonel Levin Joynes and Ann his wife (formerly Ann Smith), was born at Mount Prospect, in Accomack county, Virginia, on the 17th of October, 1789, and died at Montpelier, in the same county, on the 12th of September, 1858. His father was an early and ardent patriot, and served his country faithfully, both as a soldier during the Revolutionary struggle, and as a civilian after its close.

"Colonel Joynes died at his residence, Mt. Prospect, October 22d, 1794, in the forty-second year of his age. His wife survived him many years, and he left three sons and three daughters, who attained mature age. Thomas Robinson, the youngest son, had barely completed his fifth year when his father died. His patrimony was insufficient to procure for him the advantages of a liberal education, and after receiving such elementary instruction as could be obtained in a country school, he was placed by his mother in the store of Messrs. Parker & Gillet, at Pungoteague. Colonel Thomas Parker, one of the members of the firm, had been a friend and comrade-in-arms of his father, and

was, besides, a relative of his mother, who naturally and gladly embraced the opportunity of placing her son under his immediate control and training, and confirmed the arrangement by regular articles of indenture. The son remained in this position for several years, rendering himself very useful to his employers, acquiring knowledge of business and accounts; and finding occasion, from the nature of his duties, for the exercise and development of that remarkable talent for mathematical calculation which distinguished him through life. * * * * * * * *

Having decided to adopt the profession of law as the business of his life, Mr. Joynes pursued the necessary course of study with his characteristic diligence and earnestness of purpose in the office of Major John Wise, of Accomack (father of Governor Henry A. Wise), who was at that time an eminent member of the bar. Major S. Pitts and Severn E. Parker, who were afterwards prominent in the profession on the Eastern Shore, were his fellow-students. He was admitted to practice in the county court on the 24th of September, 1810, and in the superior court on the 6th of May, 1811. In the same year (1811) he was elected to the House of Delegates. In a printed address to the people, announcing himself a candidate, dated March 20th, 1811, he avows himself in favor of so amending the Constitution of Virginia as to make 'the sheriffs dependent upon the people for the tenure of their offices,' and to strip the county courts of 'some of their aristocratical and multifarious powers.'

"Mr. Joynes was one of the large and brilliant audience assembled in the Richmond theatre on the memorable night of the 26th December, 1811, when

the building was destroyed by fire, and over seventy persons, among them some of the first people of the city and State (including George William Smith, the newly-elected Governor of the Commonwealth,) perished in the flames or were suffocated to death; but he had the good fortune to escape unhurt. A letter from him to his brother, Levin S. Joynes, written on the day following that night of horrors, gives a vivid picture of the scene, and the state of feeling produced by it, not only in Richmond, but all over the State.

"Mr. Joynes' service in the Legislature was limited to this one session, and he never afterwards was a candidate for election to either branch.

"On the 8th of April, 1812, he was married to Anne Belle Satchell, daughter of Christopher and Anne Satchell. For ten years after his marriage he resided in Onancock, in a house which, though built of wood, and now (1874) more than a century old, is still standing in good habitable condition. In 1822, he removed to the farm called 'Bowman's Folly,' on the seaside, to which the new name of Montpelier was now given; and here he resided until his death.

"Mr. Joynes' success at the bar was rapid and signal. He soon attained, and long enjoyed, a busy and lucrative practice. His untiring industry and indomitable energy, his promptitude, punctuality, and thorough business habits; his clear head and sound and accurate knowledge of the law, and his perspicuous, direct and forcible style of argument, gained for him the confidence and patronage of the public in a measure which has probably never been exceeded in the history of the Eastern Shore bar.

"In 1812 (May 26th) Mr. Joynes was appointed

master commissioner in chancery in the county court of Accomack, to fill the vacancy created by the decease of his former law preceptor, Major Wise.

"On the 2d of May, 1814, he was appointed commonwealth's attorney in the superior court, in the place of Col. Thomas M. Bayley, who had been elected to Congress. This office he continued to hold until appointed clerk of the same court in 1828.

"In 1815, he was appointed surveyor of the county, but resigned the office in 1821.

"In 1825 (October 31), he was appointed commonwealth's attorney in the county court, in the place of General Pitts, deceased, and so remained until his appointment to the clerkship.

"On the 30th of June, 1828, Mr. Joynes was appointed and qualified as clerk of the county court, and on the same day was appointed by Judge Upshur and qualified as clerk of the superior court.

"Mr. Joynes was elected as one of the delegates to the State Convention of 1829–30 for the district composed of the counties of Accomack, Northampton, Matthews, Middlesex and Gloucester, his associates from the same district being Col. Thos. M. Bayly and Judge Abel P. Upshur of Accomack, and Dr. Calvin H. Read of Northampton. The convention assembled in the Capitol at Richmond on the 5th of October, 1829. Its composition—embracing as it did amongst its members two ex-Presidents (Madison and Monroe), John Marshall, chief-justice of the United States, and such men as John Randolph of Roanoke, Watkins Leigh, Chapman Johnson, Charles Fenton Mercer, John Tyler, Littleton W. Tazewell, Wm. B. Giles, Robert Stanard, Philip P. Barbour, Philip Doddridge,

Briscoe G. Baldwin, Robert E. Scott, Wm. H. Brodnax, and George W. Summers—entitled this convention to be regarded as the ablest body that had assembled in the State since the celebrated convention which gave the assent of Virginia to the Federal Constitution. It was no small honor to belong to such a body; but Mr. Joynes was by no means a passive or negative member, taking an active part in its deliberations, and engaging in the discussions of the grave questions before it with an ability which commanded universal respect, and the highest commendation from such men as John Randolph (who was much more given to satire than eulogy), the distinguished Robert Stanard, afterwards judge of the Court of Appeals, and others.

"The Convention having performed the task of adopting an amended Constitution, which was subsequently ratified by the popular vote, adjourned on the 15th of January, 1830, and Mr. Joynes returned to the laborious duties of his clerkship. In 1831, he was reappointed clerk of both courts, and again in 1838. In 1845, his appointment in the superior court was once more renewed, but he ceased to be clerk of the county court by the expiration of his term of office, a re-appointment not being desired by him. On the 4th of July, 1848, he resigned the clerkship of the superior court, after a service of twenty years." * * * *

"Allusion has already been made to the leading characteristics of his mind, and a quotation made from Gov. Wise's book in relation to his aptitude for mental arithmetic. While his mathematical talent in general was of a high order, his power of calculation was truly remarkable, and even exceptional. The most complicated calculations of interest, for example,

he could accomplish 'by his head' more quickly than most of those regarded skillful could do them with pen and paper, and most of the other arithmetical problems arising in the affairs of every-day life, he solved with readiness and accuracy, in the same way."

The following handsome and glowing eulogy is from the pen of O. Jennings Wise, who, at the time of Mr. Joynes' death, was editor of the *Richmond Enquirer*, and was published under the editorial head a few days after his death:

"*Thomas R. Joynes, Sr., of Accomack, is no more.*

"We lament to announce the death of one of the 'mighty men of Virginia'—Thomas R. Joynes, Sr., Esq., of the county of Accomack. He died at his residence in Accomack, on Sunday, September 12th, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He was an able lawyer, who rose to success and fortune by his own exertions, and was distinguished in the State Convention of 1829–30, by his great powers as a debater and statist. He was remarkable for his quickness, clearness and accuracy. He was the compeer of the brilliant Upshur, and was to him what Fox was to Pitt in the British Parliament. He has been for many years the Nestor of the Eastern Shore, where his loss will be felt most, and where his memory will long be cherished as an able and good man in all the relations of life. He leaves a widow and a large family of children, of whom two of his sons are well known for their worth—W. T. Joynes, Esq., of Petersburg, and Dr. L. S. Joynes, one of the professors in the Medical College of Richmond."

ALBEMARLE COUNTY.

Albemarle was formed in 1744 from Goochland. The clerks of the *County Court* have been:

1. William Randolph, from February, 1744 to February, 1749, - - - - - - - 5 years.
2. John Nicholas, from February, 1749, to March, 1815, - - - - - - - - - 66 years.
3. Alexander Garrett, from March, 1815, to June, 1831, - - - - - - - - - 16 years.
4. Ira Garrett, from June, 1831, to April, 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - - 38 years.

[☞ It will be seen that the last three held the office for 120 years, averaging 40 years.

5. Wm. J. Points, from April, 1869, to 1870, (military appointee), - - - - 1 year.
6. Robert R. Prentis, from May, 1870, to November, 1871, (died), - - - - - 1 year.
7. H. B. Bumley, from November, 1871, to 1st January, 1873, - - - - - - 2 years.
8. John W. Goss, from January, 1873, to July, 1875, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
9. H. B. Bumley, from July, 1875, to July, 1881, - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
10. John W. Goss, from July, 1881, to July, 1883, (died), - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
11. H. B. Bumley, from March, 1883, to July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
12. J. Snowden Wood, elected at May election, 1887.

District and Circuit Courts.

1. John Carr, district court from June, 1805, to 1819; circuit superior court holding its first term in 1809, - - - - - - 14 years.
2. Alexander Garrett, from 1819 to 1852, - 33 years.
3. Ira Garrett, from 1852 to 1869, - - - 17 years.
4. Wm. J. Points (military appointee), from 1869 to 1871, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
5. Bennett Taylor, from January, 1871, to May, 1886, (resigned), - - - - - 15 years.
6. Richard W. Duke, from 1886 to 1st July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for a term of six years.

ALBEMARLE COUNTY CLERKS.

BY R. T. W. DUKE, JR.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH.

On the 28th day of February, 1744, Joshua Fry, Peter Jefferson, Allen Howard, Wm. Cabell, Joseph Thompson, and Thos. Bellew, Gent'n, to whom a commission of the peace, and a *dedimus potestatem* for administering oaths, had been issued on January 2d, 1744, by Thomas Nelson, deputy secretary of the colony of Virginia, appeared to hold the first court for the newly established county of Albemarle.

With great solemnity, Allen Howard and William Cabell administered the oaths, which consisted of oaths appointed by an act of Parliament to be taken instead of the oath of allegiance and supremacy, the abjuration oath and test, and the oaths of justices of the county court in chancery. Cabell and Howard were then sworn in by the other justices, and then WILLIAM

Randolph produced a commission from Secretary Nelson to be clerk of the court, and having "taken and subscribed the usual oaths to the government and subscribed the teste, was sworn and admitted accordingly."

It might be as well here to dwell a little upon the names of these justices. Joshua Fry was afterwards the colonel of the regiment in which George Washington was lieutenant-colonel, and dying on the 31st day of May, 1754, whilst his regiment was on its way against the French. Washington succeeded him as colonel. He was the ancestor of the Frys in Albemarle, Madison, Culpeper and Orange.

Peter Jefferson was the father of Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States. William Cabell was the ancestor of the distinguished family of that name in this State.

After swearing in the clerk, the first business done by the court was to fix the "rates of liquors to be observed by all ordinary-keepers," and we find yet in handwriting of old Randolph that no inn-keeper could sell West Indian rum for more than ten shillings a gallon, but could retail New England rum for eighteen pence ditto, and good Virginia cider at six pence.

Of William Randolph no trace nor memory is left save the old faded book of minutes No. 1, 1744–1749. Whether he was William Randolph, of Tuckahoe, in Goochland, or his son, no one now living can say. That he was of that family is believed, for the mother of William of Tuckahoe was a Fleming, and John Fleming was the deputy clerk under William Randolph; but diligent inquiry fails to establish who William Randolph was, other than that he was the first clerk

of the good old county of Albemarle, and was succeeded in February, 1749, by

JOHN NICHOLAS.

John Nicholas served as clerk for the exceedingly long period of sixty-six years, having been appointed in 1749, and resigning in 1815. A portion of that time he served as clerk of the district court as well as county court, and during the war of the revolution his deputies did the work of the office, he serving gallantly as a soldier in that war. He was of the same family with Wilson Cary Nicholas, being the John Nicholas of Seven Islands, Buckingham county (then in Albemarle). He owned Belmont, the beautiful farm just on the edge of Charlottesville, since the estate of S. W. Ficklin, deceased.

When Nicholas was appointed clerk, the court-house was then near the town of Scottsville, but somewhere in the fifties Dr. Thomas Walker, of Castle Hill, in Albemarle, gave to the county the land in the town of Charlottesville on which the court-house now stands, and also land enough to erect the court-house and jail, and the court-house was in 1762 moved to the site it now occupies.

Nicholas then moved to Charlottesville, and early in this century built what was known as "The Old Stone Tavern," on the site now occupied by Payne's livery stables, in Charlottesville. He was a man of energy and systematic business habits, but of great curiosity, and with a decided fondness for gossip. It is said that he once succeeded in creating quite a coolness between Mr. Monroe and Mr. Jefferson, which the happy tact of the latter succeeded in overcoming. Gov-

ernor Thomas Mann Randolph on one occasion challenged the old gentleman for some breeze of Dame Rumor circulated by the old clerk. Though connected, they met on Round Top Mountain, across the Rivanna from Monticello. Old Nicholas fired first, and, being very near-sighted, missed his aim. With cool and dauntless courage, he faced squarely his antagonist, who deliberately raised his pistol and put a bullet-hole through the old gentleman's hat. They made friends, and old Nicholas wore the hat, with the bullet-hole through it, until it was no longer wearable.

For a good many years after the beginning of this century, Mr. Nicholas had little to do with the office, his deputies carrying it on. On the 6th of December, 1814, he submitted his resignation, a paper drawn up with some care and expressing much feeling. After thanking the court for their kindness in permitting him to receive the profits, whilst doing the work by deputy, and stating that it was mainly "on account of the daily declining profits of the office" he tendered his resignation.

On the 6th day of March, 1815, Wm. D. Meriwether, Parmenus Rogers, John A. Michie, James Old and Charles Wingfield, Gent'n, being on the bench, this resignation was accepted, and the court appointed as its clerk,

ALEXANDER GARRETT.

Alexander Garrett had been deputy clerk under Nicholas as far back as 1806. He and his brother, Ira Garrett, were born in Nelson county. Mr. Garrett was a man of more than ordinary ability. Clear-headed, and of excellent judgment, he accumulated a considerable fortune. His work, as a clerk, was carefully

and neatly done, and during his clerkship he had good deputies. One was the venerable Wm. Wertenbaker, librarian of the University of Virginia for more than fifty years, and perhaps more widely known and more affectionately remembered than any one connected with that institution.

In 1819, Mr. Garrett was also appointed clerk of the superior court of law and chancery in Albemarle, holding this latter office until 1852.

The main work of the county office was done by Ira Garrett, and, as his brother accumulated property, Ira began to think he did more work than he got pay for, and, in 1831, he announced to his brother that he intended to oppose him. He did so, and there are yet living those who remember the interest taken in the contest. The election was by the justices—of whom there were thirty-four. The court-house was crowded. On the bench were John Watson, (presiding justice, and father of the venerable Judge E. R. Watson, of the Albemarle bar,) Richard Duke, (for many years the presiding justice of the county, father of Hon. R. T. W. Duke, of Charlottesville, and grandfather of the present clerk of Albemarle circuit court,) Mann Page, Chas. Cocke, Opie Norris and Micajah Woods, (father of Dr. John R. Woods, late of Albemarle.) These, and *twenty* others, voted for Ira Garrett. Samuel Carr, Achilles Broadhead and Thomas J. Randolph, (*clarum et venerabile nomen,*) and *five* others voted for Alexander Garrett. So, Ira Garrett was elected. Alexander, however, went on his bond; so, fraternal relations were not interrupted.

Alexander Garrett married twice. His first wife was a Miss Minor, sister of Dabney Minor, of Albemarle.

The issue of this marriage—a daughter—was the first wife of V. W. Southall, the distinguished lawyer, of Charlottesville, but died early in life, without issue. Mr. Garrett's second wife was Evelina Bolling, a descendant of Pocahontas; by her he had four children:

1. John Bolling Garrett, twice married—first, a Miss Walker, of Fredericksburg; second, Miss N. H. Harrison, who, with two daughters, survives him.

2. Susan, married Thomas Johnson, M. D., the first demonstrator of anatomy in the University of Virginia.

3. Evelina, who married Alexander Duke, and left one child, Susan, the wife of Major H. W. Jones, of Taylorsville, Virginia.

4. Clarissa, who married Dr. Thomas J. Pretlow, of Southampton.

Mr. Garrett lived until 1860, being nearly eighty-six years of age.

IRA GARRETT,

the brother of Alexander Garrett, succeeded him as clerk of the county court in 1831, as noted, and also succeeded him as clerk of the superior court in 1852.

Alexander Garrett having retired, the contest was a warm one—Mr. Saunders, James Tobban, Allen Magruder and Wm. Wertenbaker opposing Mr. Ira Garrett. The latter, however, was elected by a majority greater than the combined vote of his antagonists.

He held both of these offices until removed by the military, in April, 1869.

He had the reputation of being the best clerk in the State, and was, perhaps, one of the most popular men in the county of Albemarle. Of a gentle, easy-going disposition, polite, accommodating and generous to a

fault. Though the revenue from the two offices was about $5,000 or $6,000 a year, Mr. Garrett died poor.

He had a mania for building cottages, and, after occupying them for a while, would move out and build elsewhere. This did not add to his fortune. He was a good liver, and always had the best the market afforded, without regard to price.

He married the eldest daughter of John Watson, (heretofore mentioned,) and left a large family. He died in 1870, soon after his removal. The office was then filled by Wm. J. Points, until the new Constitution was adopted; and on May 2d, 1870, John L. Cochran, county judge, appointed county clerk, to hold until the regular election,

ROBERT R. PRENTIS,

who was subsequently, in November, 1870, elected clerk. Colonel Prentis was a member of the old family of Prentis which settled originally in Nansemond county. He was a practicing lawyer, but was, just before the war, elected proctor of the University of Virginia, a position he filled with ability and good judgment until 1863. He was a gentleman of the most genial and affable manners, and of deserved popularity. He married a Miss Whitehead, of Nansemond county, and dying in November, 1871, left several sons and daughters surviving him. One of his sons is Robert R. Prentis, an eminent lawyer of Suffolk, and mayor of that place. Colonel Prentis was succeeded by

HORACE B. BUMLEY,

who was appointed 29th November, 1871, and held until January 1st, 1873, when Major John W. Goss

was elected clerk, Mr. Bumley becoming his deputy, the office being shared equally between them.

Mr. Bumley is the son of Nathaniel Bumley and Sally Wood, daughter of the late Drury Wood, Esq., of Albemarle county. In 1875, Mr. Bumley was elected clerk, Major Goss being his deputy. In, 1881, Major Goss was elected, Mr. Bumley being deputy. Major Goss dying in 1883, Mr. Bumley was appointed, and then elected clerk, serving to the 1st of July, 1887, when he was succeeded by J. Snowden Wood. Mr. Bumley was a candidate for re-election, and would undoubtedly have been re-elected but for the fact that there were two Democrats in the field, and the Republican candidate was elected by a plurality of two hundred votes.

Mr. Bumley still lives, warmly admired by his numerous friends. He married a Miss Greenlee, of Rockbridge county.

JOHN W. GOSS.

Major Goss, who with Mr. Bumley was clerk as hereinbefore stated, was a gentleman of fine presence, of genial and pleasant manners, and much beloved in Albemarle county. He served as high sheriff for a term, and represented the county in the House of Delegates. He married a Miss Lewis of Augusta, and left a family of three sons and three daughters. He died on the 15th day of March, 1871, in the —— year of his age.

J. SNOWDEN WOOD,

the present clerk, is a young gentleman of pleasant and agreeable manners, the son of John Wood, Jr., of Albemarle. He is unmarried.

CIRCUIT CLERKS.

Three of the clerks of the circuit court were clerks of the county court, to-wit: Alex. Garrett, Ira Garrett and Wm. J. Points.

JOHN CARR.

Its first clerk was John Carr, a member of the family of that name in Albemarle, one of whom was Dabney Carr, the intimate friend of Jefferson. He was the ancestor of the large family of Carrs in Albemarle county.

The first circuit superior court of law was held in Albemarle May 8th, 1809, Archibald Stuart (father of Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, of Augusta,) being judge.

BENNETT TAYLOR.

Bennett Taylor was elected clerk of the circuit court in 1870, and held the office from January 1st, 1871, to May 29th, 1886, resigning for pretty much the same reasons given by his ancestor's kinsman, Nicholas—the falling off of the receipts in the office.

Colonel Taylor is the son of J. C. R. Taylor and Patsey Jefferson, daughter of Colonel Thomas J. Randolph. He was educated at the University of Virginia, was lieutenant-colonel of the Nineteenth Virginia regiment, C. S. A., and is now a practicing attorney in Albemarle county. He married Lucy Colston, daughter of Hon. Ed. Colston, of Berkeley county, and has six children.

RICHARD W. DUKE

was appointed clerk May 29th, 1886, and in May, 1887, *unanimously* elected clerk of the circuit court, leading the whole ticket some thirty-eight votes. He

is the only son of the late William J. Duke, of Albemarle, who was the eldest son of Richard Duke, a prominent citizen of Albemarle. Richard Duke was of the same family with Elizabeth Duke, the wife of Nathaniel Bacon, the "rebel," and a descendant of Colonel Henry Duke, of Governor Nicholson's council. Mr. Duke served in the late war as a private in Carrington's company, Cutshaw's battalion of artillery, and has never before held any public office. He is unmarried, as yet.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY.

Alexandria was formed in 1846, from that portion of the District of Columbia which was in Virginia. The clerks have been:

1. Jefferson Tacey, from 1847 to December 31, 1870, - - - - - - - - - - - 23 years.
2. George C. Seaton (*colored!*), from January 1, 1871, to August 30, 1872, - 2 years.
3. David M. Hunter, from September 1, 1872, to December 30, 1873, - - - 2 years.
4. Louis E. Payne, from January 1, 1873, to March 7, 1879, - - - - - - - 6 years.
5. Alexander Hunter, from March, 1879, to June 20, 1879, - - - - - - - - 3 mos.
6. Benjamin Austin, from July, 1879, to June, 1886, - - - - - - - - - - 7 years.
7. H. H. Young, from June 28, 1886, to July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.

And re-elected for six years in May, 1887.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY.

Alleghany was formed in 1822, from Botetourt, Bath, Rockbridge, Monroe and Greenbrier counties. The clerks have been:

1. Oliver Callahan (county court), from May, 1822, to June, 1831, - - - - - - 9 years.
   (Circuit court from 1822 to 1831.)
2. Andrew Hamilton (county court), from 1822 to 1823, - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
3. Beniah Hutchinson (county court), from 1823 to 1825, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
4. Johnson Reynolds (*pro tem.* county court), from May 1825, to October, 1825, - 5 mos.
5. Andrew Fudge (county and circuit courts), from 1831 to 1858, - - - - - - 27 years.
6. Lewis P. Holloway (circuit and county courts), from 1858 to 1862, - - - 4 years.
7. William M. Scott (circuit and county courts), from 1862 to 1865, - - - - 3 years.
8. Joseph T. Fudge (circuit and county courts), from 1865 to 1869, - - - - 4 years.
9. Henry C. Vaughan (military appointment), 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - 1 year.
10. John R. Pharr, from 1870 to 1875, - - 5 years.
11. J. Jerome Hobbs, from 1875 to 1887, - 12 years.
    And re-elected in May, 1887.

CLERKS OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY.

Sketches have been furnished me of eleven clerks of Alleghany. Of these, only *three* are deemed of

sufficient interest and importance to publish, as the others held the office so short a time that they could not have made any special character as *clerks*, though persons of the highest respectability in other respects.

1. *Oliver Callaghan* (or *O'Callaghan*, as his father, *Dennis O'Callaghan*, spelt his name, and had it printed on the *sign* of the celebrated tavern that he kept so long, not far from the White Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier county), was the first clerk of Alleghany, and though he had not been trained as one, yet his intelligence and business habits were such that he soon made himself acquainted with the duties of the office, and finally became an efficient and useful clerk. After nine years of service, he removed to Fincastle, where he conducted for several years the *Fincastle Democrat* newspaper. He then purchased a farm near Fincastle, on which he lived until the breaking out of the late war, when he returned to Covington, and lived there for several years. In attempting to cross James River, a few miles below Covington, when it was much swollen, Mr. Callaghan was unfortunately *drowned*, leaving a large and highly respectable family of sons and daughters to mourn the loss of a devoted father.

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5. Andrew Fudge was eminently a self-made man. With very limited opportunities to obtain more than a plain English education, such was his energy and industry, coupled with good, hard common sense, that he made his way in the world, and at the age of twenty-five was elected commissioner of the revenue; and having served one term, offered as a candidate for the clerkship, and was elected, or appointed, clerk of both the courts of Alleghany in the year 1831, and held the offices for twenty-seven years, when he declined a re-

election. He was an efficient and useful clerk, highly esteemed by all, and is now "stout and hearty" at the age of eighty-four.

6. Lewis P. Holloway, who succeeded Mr. Fudge, had been deputy sheriff, surveyor, justice of the peace, and representative of the county in the House of Delegates. Having lost his mother in early childhood, he was raised by his grandfather (John Holloway), one of the few really well-educated men then living in the county of Alleghany. The old man was devoted to his grandson, and spent the last days of his life in training him up and superintending his education. Lewis P. Holloway was the first clerk of the county who had the advantages of a liberal education. The old man was an elder in the Presbyterian church, and somewhat Puritanical in his notions, but his grandson was brim-full of wit, humor and fun; a fine talker, sprightly writer, and quite an orator. During his continuance in the office of clerk (which he filled very satisfactorily), he became the editor of *The Covington Times*, which was conducted by him with marked ability up to the breaking out of the late war, when he raised a company, known as "The Alleghany Rifles," was elected captain, and marched at once to Harper's Ferry; was in the first battle of Manassas, and in every other battle fought by "Stonewall" Jackson until captured at the battle of Kernstown. From there he was taken to Fort Delaware, confined in a damp prison, contracted pneumonia, and died. He had the character of being a very "bright" Mason; and there was a magnetism about him that seemed to win all who made his acquaintance. His letters from camp, addressed to his father and other friends, breathed not only a patriot-

ism and devotion to liberty and Virginia, but were written in a style not unworthy of Patrick Henry; and those to his female relatives with a tenderness and beauty which would have been creditable to the pen of Washington Irving.

All of the clerks since the war have been young men, who shouldered their muskets and marched forth to aid their countrymen in carrying the flag of the Confederacy through the "shout, the shock, the groan of war," and returned to their homes with noble and manly records; and they were all men of good moral character and liberal education.

The present clerk has for twelve years discharged the duties of his office with great fidelity, and with an ability equal, if not superior, to that of any of his predecessors.

AMELIA COUNTY.

Amelia was formed in 1734, from parts of Prince George and Brunswick counties. Its clerks have been:

1. Samuel Cobbs, from 1734 to 1757, - - 23 years.
2. T. Griffin Peachy, from 1757 to 1791, - 34 years.
3. James Townes, from 1791 to 1810, - - 19 years.
4. John Townes Leigh, from 1810 to 1838, and resigned, - - - - - - - - - 28 years.
5. Egbert Giles Leigh, from 1838 to 1854, and resigned, - - - - - - - - - 16 years.

6. E. H. Coleman, from 1854 to 1869, and from 1875 to 1887, - - - - - - - 27 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞ During the period between 1869 and 1875 the clerks' offices were held by military appointees (J. B. Clinton and J. H. Hann).

AMHERST COUNTY.

Amherst was formed from Albemarle in 1761. The clerks have been (of the county court):

1. George Seaton, from June, 1761, to June, 1776, - - - - - - - - - - - - - 15 years.
2. Edmund Willcox, from June, 1776, to June, 1785, - - - - - - - - - - - 19 years.
3. William Loving, from June, 1785, to June, 1791, - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
4. William S. Crawford, from 1791 to 1816, 25 years.
5. John Camm, from 1816 to 1818, - - - 2 years.
6. Arthur B. Davis, from 1818 to 1831, - 13 years.
7. Robert Tinsley, from 1831 to 1837, - - 6 years.
8. Meredith Garland, from 1837 to 1864, - 27 years.
9. Leo Daniel, Jr., from 1864 to 1869, - - 5 years. when he was removed by military authority, and
10. A. F. Lucas was clerk from 1869 to December, 1870, - - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
11. Charles L. Ellis, from December, 1870, to 1st July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - 17 years.

And was re-elected in May, 1887 for six years.

☞ No memo. of circuit court clerks.

APPOMATTOX COUNTY.

Appomattox was formed in 1845, from Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte and Prince Edward. The clerks have been:

1. John T. Bocock, from May 1, 1845, to May — (died), - - - - - - - - - 1 mo.
2. Henry F. Bocock, from June 5, 1845, to June 30, 1860, - - - - - - - - - 15 years.
3. George T. Peers, from July 1, 1860, to June 30, 1887, - - - - - - - - - 27 years.

☞ There was a military appointment of clerk in 1869, but he never came to the office, and G. T. Peers remained, did all the business, and received all the emoluments of the office—a somewhat rare instance of liberality on the part of the appointee!

AUGUSTA COUNTY.

Augusta was formed in 1738, from Orange. Previous to that time, all that portion of Virginia lying west of the Blue Ridge was embraced in Orange, but in the fall session of the House of Burgesses it was divided into the counties of Frederick and Augusta. Frederick was bounded by the Potomac on the north, the Blue Ridge on the east, and a line to be run from the head spring of Hedgman to head spring of the Potomac on the south and west; the remainder of

Virginia, lying west of the Blue Ridge, to constitute Augusta. This immense territory, bounded on the north by the Ohio river, and on the west by the Mississippi, now embraces several large States.

Its first court was held in 1745, and the clerks have been:

1. John Madison, from 1745 to 1779, - - 34 years.
   ☞He was the father of Bishop Madison.
2. Alex. McClanahan, from 1779 to 1792, - 13 years.
3. Jacob Kinney, from 1793 to 1800, - - 7 years.
4. Chesley Kinney, from 1800 to 1812, - 12 years.
5. Erasmus Stribling, from 1812 to 1831, - 19 years.
6. Jefferson Kinney, from 1831 to 1858, - 27 years.
7. John D. Imboden, from 1858 to 1864, - 6 years.
8. Wm. A. Burnett, from 1864 to 1887, - 23 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞Samuel Kline, who could take the iron-clad oath, qualified as clerk in 1869–70, and gave bond, but the whole business was conducted by his deputy, W. A. Burnett, who was elected in 1870.

NOTES FROM WADDILL'S ANNALS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY.

1777.—A high court of chancery established at Staunton, with *Judges* Wythe, E. Pendleton, and John Blair. Afterwards reduced to one chancellor over the whole State, who was Chancellor Wythe.

1779.—District court of law established, with two judges in each district.

1802.—There were four chancery courts established in Virginia.

1809.—Circuit courts of law established, constituting the general court, which met in Richmond annually.

1831.—Circuit superior courts of law and chancery established. James Lyle was the first clerk of the district court, from 1779 to 1792, when he was succeeded by John Coalter, afterwards Judge Coalter of the Court of Appeals. The third clerk was Micajah Coalter, and Chesley Kinney was the fourth clerk, who was also the first clerk of the circuit court of law, from 1809 to 1828. The second clerk of this court was N. C. Kinney, from 1828 to 1831, who was also the first clerk of the circuit superior court of law and chancery, from 1831 to —, about twenty years.

The first clerk of the chancery court, established in 1802, was Henry J. Peyton; the second clerk was Wm. S. Eskridge.

REMARKABLE FAMILY OF CLERKS AND THEIR CONNECTIONS.

Jacob Kinney was the clerk of the county court of Augusta county from 1793 to 1800. He was the father of the wife of Erasmus Stribling, of whom was born a large family, and among them was Dr. Francis Taliaferro Stribling, one of the most distinguished men in the medical profession in this country. He was for many years the chief physician and superintendent of the Western Lunatic Asylum, and died in the year 1874, occupying the same position. This institution enjoyed the reputation, during the time it was under his control, of being the most admirably organized and the best governed insane asylum in the country. It led the way, under his benignant influence, to the introduction of the *humane* system of treatment of these unfortunates. His skill in the treatment of the diseases which cause insanity, and his con-

trol over the patients in the asylum, were wonderful. He was a small man, but he could govern the largest and strongest, even when violent, by the glance of his eye, the tones of his voice, his genial manner and womanly tenderness, and indomitable firmness and courage. Never, but once, was he seriously assaulted by a lunatic; and then the patient had, contrary to orders, gone to town, and was found by Dr. Stribling in a jeweler's shop, and almost at once, and under a violent impulse of insane rage, the deranged man drew from his pocket a knife, sharpened to the keenest edge, and with it struck at Dr. S. He threw up his right arm, and received the blade of the knife between the elbow and the shoulder. Mr. Fuller, the keeper of the shop, sprang across the counter, seized the lunatic, and thrust him out of the door. The blade was left in the arm. With the skill of a master of his profession, Dr. S. saw at a glance that the knife had cut the chief artery of the arm, and that his only hope of life was to keep it as it was until the artery could be properly compressed. With perfect coolness and self-possession, he walked across and down New street to the reception-room of the Virginia Hotel, holding his arm up, and requesting physicians to be summoned. Soon after entering the reception-room a traveler came in with large leggings on, fastened by uncommonly heavy and strong strings or braids. At once Dr. S. requested the gentleman to take his legging-strings off, and another friend to cut his coat-sleeve open up to a point above that where the knife-blade was sticking. The legging-strings were doubled together, and, by Dr. S.'s directions, were knotted and triple-knotted, until the knot was capable of direct pressure upon the severed

artery. He then instructed the gentleman how to place the knot above the severed artery, and, pressing it with all his strength in and upon the artery just above the knife-blade, he tied it tight, and drawing it with great force fastened it. The Doctor then requested the friendly stranger to draw the knife-blade out, and to use all his force in pressing upon the cord-knot. The blood gushed forth fearfully, but just at that time some physicians came, and better compresses were applied, and the flow of blood was stopped. The next difficulty was to take up and fasten the artery. At that time our medical men were not very skillful surgeons, and the doctors present were so much agitated that they could not exert even the skill they really possessed with effect until, under the guidance of Dr. Stribling's own directions, the track of the artery was traced and followed, and the end of it was found and securely fastened. Of course, the strain upon his constitution and strength was great, but he rallied and came out of the trial with a disabled arm, which, however, he continued to use until his death. This incident showed that he had inherited the blood of a race of cool heads and courageous hearts.

Chesley Kinney became clerk of the county court of Augusta county in 1800, and continued to discharge the duties until July 1st, 1812, when, having been stricken with paralysis, he retired from the office. I remember very well having seen Mr. Chesley Kinney, then an old man, bed-ridden and unable to move by reason of the paralysis. According to my recollection, he suffered in bed for nearly twenty years, when he died. A very amusing story is told of him, which was doubtless true. A man named Thomas Balsley owed

him a number of clerk's tickets, which had been standing unpaid until they were barred by the statute of limitations; and Balsley refused to pay them, relying on the statute. At that time, a simple verbal acknowledgment of a debt was enough to lift the bar. So, one day Thomas Balsley was called upon to answer certain questions in court. Before doing so, he had to be sworn. As he approached the clerk's table, Mr. Kinney whispered to his deputy, "Listen and remember." Balsley walked up; he laid his hand on the Book; the clerk, with deep, sepulchral tones, solemnly looking at Balsley as if he was about to devour him, said: "You, Thomas Balsley, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God and upon this Holy Evangely, that you will true answers make to such questions as may be propounded to you." Balsley kissed the Book; and Kinney, leaning forward, while the deputy was listening, in low tones said, "Don't you owe me $8.78 for clerk's tickets? Balsley trembled, and said, "Yes, I do." Kinney then said, "That will do for *me*. Now step forward and answer the *court's* questions." A constable soon had Balsley in hand, and he was compelled to pay the just debt.

On the 29th day of August, 1812, Erasmus Stribling, the son-in-law of Jacob Kinney, became clerk of the county court of Augusta county, and continued to fill the office until July, 1831.

On the 1st day of July, 1831, Jefferson Kinney, a son of Chesley Kinney, succeeded Erasmus Stribling as clerk of the county court of Augusta county, and held the office until July 1st, 1858, when he was succeeded by John D. Imboden.

William A. Burnett, who was trained in office by

Jefferson Kinney, succeeded General Imboden, during the war, and is still the admirable clerk of the county court.

Nicholas C. Kinney, another son of the old clerk, Chesley Kinney, was appointed clerk of the circuit court on the 24th of March, 1858. The court at that time was called the circuit superior court of law and chancery for the county of Augusta. Nicholas C. Kinney held the office, under Judge Lucas P. Thompson, till February, 1859, about which time he died, being still the incumbent of the office. He was succeeded by his son, Alexander F. Kinney, who held the office until after the war was ended, when Joseph N. Ryan was elected and still holds the clerkship.

This survey of these offices and their incumbents since 1793, is full of interest and instruction. The Kinneys were, as it were, born clerks. The qualities and attributes which make up the characters of good clerks seemed to have been hereditary and belonged to the race. They all wrote well; they had memories unsurpassed in tenacity and accuracy; and were methodical and orderly, and were as faithful and true to their official duties as any men who ever filled offices of any sort in the Valley or the State. They enjoyed the unwavering confidence of the people and of the bar and the bench. I have had occasion to run back over the records of both courts and to know much of them, yet I know of no case of serious mistake made by either of them. Nicholas C. Kinney was surpassed by no clerk in the State of Virginia as a lucid writer and an accurate draftsman of decrees and orders of the court. Being once told what, in general, the decree or judgment should in substance be, he could put it in form,

in the very best style; and by his skill and talent in composition and systematic and methodical arrangement of pleadings, orders and decrees, he became a great helper of the bench and the bar. He was a patient laborer, a most popular officer, and as true a friend as man ever had. His memory was marvelous; and this valuable faculty has descended to his children and grand-children to a remarkable degree. I will give one illustration of the kind of memory he possessed. I was once engaged, as counsel of certain parties, in an escheat case, in the court of appeals at Lewisburg. The case was involved in great obscurity and uncertainty. In the record reference was made to an old chancery cause, supposed to have been in the chancery court at Staunton. I deemed it important to find that record, if practicable. The short style of the case was not given, the substance only of the subject of the litigation was vaguely referred to. To find a record of such a character, among the rubbish of the old chancery court, I considered very doubtful, but I determined to make the effort. I found Mr. Kinney at his table, as usual, hard at work. This was about the year 1850; it may have been a few years earlier or later. I told Mr. Kinney as much as I knew of the case, which was very little, and asked him if he had any recollection about it. He had been in the office a long time, perhaps from 1820, as a deputy clerk. When I put the question to him about the case, he paused, put his finger to his forehead for a moment or two, and then said, "yes, I remember all about it; I entered the final decree in 1822, I think, and I am sure I can find the record." He stated its short style with promptness and accuracy; got upon his step-ladders, and, in a few mo-

ments, handed me down the bundle of papers containing the record I was in search of. This record was valuable to me, chiefly for the survey of a large body of land in Kanawha county, now in West Virginia, extending to the Ohio river, made by General Washington, upon a personal survey. The land in controversy was included in the Washington survey, and was so identified as to enable me to win my case against the Commonwealth, then represented by the attorney-general. Mr. Kinney told me that he had not thought of the case since he entered the final decree; and how he came to remember the transaction he could not explain. His grandson, William G. Kinney, now lives in Staunton. He was at one time a clerk in my law office. His only fault, as a clerk, was the accuracy and tenacity of his memory; and to this day, although he has been for ten or fifteen years in other and more lucrative business, he can find any paper which may have been misplaced or lost sight of by the members of my firm or by our clerk, if the lost or misplaced paper had been in the office during his clerkship, or he had ever had charge of it. It is a great gift, and is, to a greater or less degree, a marked characteristic of the whole family.

All of the children of Chesley Kinney, the elder, are dead. William, Nicholas C., Jefferson, and Chesley, Jr., left families, who are somewhat scattered abroad, a number of them, or their descendants, however, living in Staunton. Archibald Kinney, another son of Chesley Kinney, and Mrs. Craig, his only daughter, died without issue. These men—including Erasmus Stribling—constituted a class of citizens of great conservative influence in the community, and I verily believe they contributed largely to the tone and

characteristics of the people of this county. They were honored, followed, looked up to for advice and guidance, and swayed the public sentiment and opinion of the county in favor of right, justice and civil integrity; and they helped greatly to make the citizens of old Augusta what they certainly once were, and I trust will ever be—that is, reverential respecters of law and order, and promoters of private honor and public welfare. I could mention many instances of their great influence as leaders of public opinion, and of their marked success in guiding it aright. Deaths and dispersions have broken up the brotherhood, and the influence once so powerful and salutary is dissolved and gone. Jefferson Kinney, the clerk of the county court, was one of the most patient and methodical workers I ever saw, and he found his patience and systematic methods of managing his valuable office very profitable to him. His son Archibald and family still live on the old farm, the homestead of the family, near Staunton. His son-in-law, S. D. Whitcomb, Esq., is one of the first topographical civil engineers in the South, and is surrounded by a family in which are found all the virtues of the race. Jefferson Kinney was one of the most agreeable talkers and anecdote *reconteurs* in our town—qualities in strange contrast with the tread-mill style of his silent, systematic drudgery in his office. He was a true and conscientious man, a most loving and affectionate husband and father, and a citizen without reproach. None of the Kinneys in early life became communicants of the church; amid the shadows of declining years they made their profession of faith. But from 1828 down, they were the very bulwarks and supports of the Episcopal church, and by

their influence and large moneyed contributions, sustained it as if they had been confirmed members of the same; and they all lived to see their labors of love crowned with abundant blessings, and to share in its benedictions.

I have said nothing of William and Chesley Kinney, who were lawyers, or of their families, or of Archibald Kinney, who was a non-professional business man, or of Mrs. Craig, the sister of the family, as this communication is confined to clerks and their belongings.

In connection with the clerks of our courts, I deem it just to say a few words of Erasmus Stribling, who was, by connection, of the family, but not a blood relative.

He was a man of rare intelligence and geniality of nature, a fine talker, and warm-hearted and devoted in his friendships. During the time, at least the earlier part of the time, he held the office of county clerk, he was one of the foremost men of the county in wealth, property, possessions and influence, and no one was more cordially beloved by all in the community than he. His heart was filled with gentle, almost womanly, affections, and he scattered his favors and kindnesses around him with a lavish hand. May I be pardoned for relating an incident equally creditable to him and to the recipient of his kindness? During the time in which the collection of the United States direct tax was to be made, after the war of 1812–15, Michael Garber was the United States marshal for the district, and had the power to appoint deputy collectors. John Churchman, a youth, not yet of age, had asked for a place. Mr. Garber agreed to appoint him provided he could give the twenty thousand dollar bond. John had his

bond prepared, and had signed it *himself*, but he could get no one to become his surety. Monday, *the last day*, had come, and about noon John sat down on the steps of the old Bell Tavern in sorrowful dejection, having given up all hope of making this favorable start in life. As he sat there in grief, Erasmus Stribling passed by, and, seeing the posture of John, or Johnny, as he called him, he stopped and asked him what was the matter. Young Churchman, gulping down his emotions, told his story. Stribling asked for his bond and his pen and ink, and wrote his own name to the seal, next to John's, and then said "Johnny, come with me;" and he took him around one square; and when he reached the court-house the bond had names appended to it representing nearly a half million of dollars. Of course Mr. Garber was satisfied; John Churchman became deputy, and in that office laid the foundation of the large fortune he made.

Years rolled on. Churchman became rich and richer, and Stribling became embarrassed and impoverished, poor and poorer, until at last the old man was reduced to most straightened circumstances. He conceived the idea that if he could raise a few hundred dollars he would go to Texas and make a fresh start in life. One day he met John Churchman on the street, and asked him for the loan of two hundred and fifty to three hundred dollars. Churchman almost gruffly refused. But said Mr. Stribling, "I will make the debt perfectly safe by giving my son Frank as my surety." "I wont take him," said Churchman. Stribling could not help, in mind, going back thirty-odd years and wondering how Churchman could treat him so. At length he said, "I am sorry I asked you," and was turning away,

when Churchman stopped him, at the same time pulling out his old-time long pocket-book, filled with bank notes, and said, "Here is my pocket-book; it contains a large amount of money; take out of it just what you want, and may it do you as much good as your kindness once did me. All I have I owe to you." Stribling was much affected. Poor as he was, he was too proud and full of self-respect to take more than he thought he could repay, and was content with the three hundred dollars.

If the departed are permitted to review such scenes as this, these two worthy men must have had much pleasure in reviving the memory of these incidents.

The memories connected with these influential men and faithful officers are gradually fading away; few remember them as they were fifty or sixty years ago. Still their works remain; the example they set to all of fidelity in the public trusts they filled still shines forth in the acts of their followers.

HUGH W. SHEFFEY.

ALEXANDER MCCLANAHAN (or McClenegan, as it was sometimes written,) the second clerk of Augusta county court, was the son of Robert McClanahan, who came from the north of Ireland, and settled in Augusta about the year 1740, Alexander being then a boy. Another son of Robert, named Blair McClanahan, settled in Philadelphia and became a wealthy merchant, and member of Congress after the adoption of the Federal Constitution. He was a zealous politician and intolerant Federalist. One of his daughters married —— Reid, who was a nephew of Dr. Franklin. Robert McClanahan's wife, and the mother of Alexander and

others, was a daughter of Alexander Breckenridge, who also settled in Augusta about the year 1740. He (Alexander B.) was the grandfather of John Breckenridge of Kentucky, and of General James Breckenridge of Botetourt. He lived only a few years after settling in Augusta, and was one of the original members (perhaps a ruling elder) of Tinkling Spring church. Robert McClanahan was appointed high sheriff in 1749, and throughout his whole life was a prominent man. He died in 1791, leaving four sons, Alexander, Robert, John and William. Robert was a physician, and married a daughter of Thomas Lewis, who was the son of John Lewis, the first settler near the present town of Staunton. Robert afterwards removed to that part of Botetourt which is now known as Greenbrier, and was the captain of a Botetourt company, in Colonel Fleming's regiment, and was killed at the famous battle of Point Pleasant, in 1774. John McClanahan was a lieutenant in Bouquette's expedition in 1764, and died in early life. William settled on the Roanoke river, in Botetourt county, and was the father of Colonel Elijah McClanahan, Colonel James McClanahan, and others of that family.

At August court, 1763, *Alexander McClanahan* qualified as captain of militia, and he commanded a company in Bouquette's expedition in 1764. For some years afterwards he lived on a farm, but was always active in fighting the Indians, who were often very troublesome in those early days of the settlement of Augusta. He was one of the justices on the bench at the date of August 22, 1774, and soon afterwards joined the Augusta company, Colonel Charles Lewis' regiment, which bore an active part in the battle of Point Pleas-

ant, in October, 1774. We find him on the bench again in November, 1774, and on the 20th of March, 1775, he was on the committee of freeholders to draw up instructions to the delegates from Augusta county to the convention of 1775, by which he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Seventh regiment, and he was at the battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775. In 1776 he served under General Andrew Lewis at, or near, Williamsburg, and on the 5th of May, 1776, his name appears on the "orderly book" of General Lewis' command of that portion of the army stationed at or near Williamsburg, published by Charles Campbell, the historian, in 1860, as Colonel McClanahan. It is not known at what time he retired from the army. There is some confusion in the records of Augusta as to the exact time when his service as clerk commenced, and also as to its termination, but it probably commenced in 1779 and ended in 1792. One of his deputies was J. Lyle, Jr., who was afterwards the first clerk of the district court of Staunton. He belonged to the Rockbridge family, married a Miss Baker of the lower valley, and left a daughter, who married Abram Smith, of Rockingham. The time of Alexander McClanahan's death is somewhat uncertain, as he left no will, and there appears to have been no administration on his estate, from which we may infer that he left no estate to be administered on.

His wife was a Miss Shelton, sister of Patrick Henry's first wife. He left a son (John), who died unmarried, and two daughters, one of whom married —— Abney, and the other —— Austin, both of whom left a number of descendants.

[☞The above was furnished by Mr. Joseph A. Waddell.]

Joseph N. Ryan, the oldest son of Thomas W. and Martha (Trout) Ryan, was born at Port Republic, Rockingham county, Virginia, on the 27th day of June, 1840. Since 1854 his home has been in Augusta county, and in Staunton, where he married Matilda E. Francisco, May 24, 1867, Rev. William E. Baker being the officiating minister. They have two sons, Cameron C. and Willie F., and two daughters, Mary O. and Margaret L. The wife of Mr. Ryan was born at the Warm Springs, Bath county, Virginia, and came with her parents, C. C. and Margaret (Hyde) Francisco, to Augusta county, in 1859. Captain Ryan's paternal grandfather was of Irish birth, and emigrated to America, settling in Baltimore about the year 1800. Here he married and reared a family, one of his sons, Thomas, being the father of Captain Ryan. He left Maryland early in life, and after a sojourn at Luray, Page county, settled in Rockingham county about 1839, where he married and had a family of eight children. He died August 2, 1883, and his wife died in December, 1859. Captain Ryan entered the Confederate service at Staunton, April 17, 1861, as private in the West Augusta Guards, afterwards Company I, Fifth Virginia infantry, Stonewall brigade. He was made orderly sergeant in April, 1862; second lieutenant in the following summer, and first lieutenant in November following. In June, 1863, he received his commission as captain of the company, but was not again in active service after the battle of Chancellorsville. He was slightly wounded at Carneysville, West Virginia; was in every battle of the regiment from Falling Waters to Chancellorsville, where he lost his right leg, and was struck in the left leg and breast by a

fragment of shell, unfitting him for further service in the field. In May, 1864, he was elected clerk of the circuit court of Augusta county, and by successive elections has retained the office to the present time, (1887) and was re-elected for a term of six years in May, 1887. This is no small testimony to the efficiency and ability with which he has discharged the duties of his office, which is one of the most important in the State, and has been filled by a long line of distinguished clerks.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HENRY JAMES PEYTON.

Henry James Peyton, who was clerk of the chancery court of the Staunton district from 1802 to 1816, was born in Milford, Prince William county, about the year 1768. He was descended from a staunch, true and gallant race, long seated in the colony of Virginia—a race which had, previous to the emigration of two of its off-shoots to the colony of Virginia, influenced English society through successive generations, by its genius, wisdom and virtue, till the name thus eminent became at last, through the experience of mankind, presumptive of worth in the individual who bore it. His ancestor, John Peyton, was a native of Bury St. Edmonds, Norfolk, in England, whose taste for cosmography and maritime adventure led him to visit Virginia in 1624. After his return to England, a little later, he sailed for the Levant, and became a pioneer and explorer of the East Indies and China, amidst hardships and suffering happily unknown to modern travelers. In these enterprises he was associated with Sir Thomas Smythe, Garway, Lord North and other merchants trading with the East. Twenty years later

he came again to Virginia, bringing with him considerable substance, large experience and much energy, and, in 1644, settled on an estate called "Acquia," in Westmoreland county, where he spent the evening of his days in repose, and, dying about 1658, left two sons, Henry and Valentine, to whom he bequeathed, in his last will, admitted to record October 20th, 1659, one-half of his no inconsiderable estate. From this brief reference to his family, it will be seen, from an examination of the family records, that he was the grandson of Sir Thomas Peyton, member of Parliament for Dunwich in 1557, and a cousin of the immortal poet, Thomas Peyton, of Lincoln's Inn, barrister at law, and author of "*The Glasse of Time*," &c., published in London in 1620, which scholars of the present day recognize as the original of "Paradise Lost."

While birth conveys no merit, there is a moral power in such an ancestry as H. J. Peyton's. No man can fail to feel gratified that his forefathers have displayed the virtues of honesty, thrift, manliness and more or less the Christian graces. It fosters no mistaken pride to record the names and deeds of deserving men, but gives a healthy encouragement to the young to emulate their examples. If our ancestors have not always learnt to be great, how animating, how touching, to know that they have continued to be good, or, as it has been well said, no virtuously disposed mind can look back upon a long line of truly venerable ancestors, without feeling his motive to a virtuous life strengthened. He can scarcely help feeling that it is not for him to bring the first disgrace upon the lineage. It will, moreover, lead him to reflect that his posterity also will be looking back and comparing his life with

that of his progenitors. And who, in such a case, can fail to feel as a father in the presence of his offspring.

The subject of this sketch, to come down nearer to our times, was the son of Captain Valentine Peyton and brother of Colonel Henry Peyton, both of Revolutionary fame, the latter of whom married Mary Gallaher, and left, among his descendants, the late Judge James E. Brown, of Wythe, the distinguished Colonel John B. Baldwin, Mrs. Alexander H. H. Stuart, of Staunton, Mrs. James M. Ranson and Mrs. C. J. Stuart and others in our State, of varied talents and extensive acquirements.

Shortly after the close of the war, in 1783, Captain Valentine Peyton removed to an estate he had purchased in Frederick county, and there passed the rest of his life, engaged in cultivating and improving his lands and taking an active part in county affairs. He possessed all the noble instincts of the country gentleman, and was one of the most useful, respected and influential men in Frederick. He left two sons, John S. Peyton and Henry James. From John S. is descended Judge William L. Clark, (judge of the county court of Frederick in 1888), who married Mary, a daughter of Chapman J. Stuart, by his wife Margaret, a daughter of Judge Briscoe G. Baldwin, and they have issue, a large and interesting family.

His son, Henry James, received his early education in Winchester, and was afterwards, between the years 1782 and 1789, entered as a student at Washington College, Lexington, Virginia. At this college, the character which he maintained through life was fully developed. There was much of practical, sound sense, much of agreeable liveliness and those invaluable qual-

ities which make the young collegian at once the favorite and the guide of his contemporaries; which obtain the approbation and confidence of those in authority and connect, by kindly feelings, the professor and his scholars. In case of any misunderstanding, Henry Peyton would have been the student through whom his collegemates would have communicated with the faculty, and the faculty would have rejoiced that such an individual had been selected. At college he worked hard and was successful in the pursuit of knowledge, and was known to be kind, generous, firm, and of undeviating rectitude.

Among those in the college, between 1782 and 1789, the catalogue of Washington and Lee University shows the names of the following, who became aftewards prominent: Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., General Boyd, Judge Coalter, John Johnston, M. D., Colonel James McDowell, Governor Roane, Judge Brown and Judge Alexander Stuart. To have stood out prominent among such young men was, in itself, no mean evidence of his superior parts. His manner of life was quiet and respectable, the friend of some few studious persons of his own habits, but known to many and respected by all.

After completing his studies, he returned to Frederick county, married Miss Hurd, by whom he left two children, took possession of an estate devised to him by his father and pursued the life of a Virginia planter, in easy and independent circumstances. With this position he was content, and the position of a country gentleman, in those days, in Virginia, was one of the most respected and enviable that a man could occupy. Such a man, in such a station, is a real blessing to his

community, uniting, as he does, to the characteristics of the cultivated landed proprietor and country gentleman those of a good neighbor and a good magistrate. He received his appointment as clerk from Judge Brown, one of his college friends, and who married his cousin, Fannie Peyton, daughter of Colonel Henry Peyton, and who was, at the time of his election as chancellor, practising law at Morefield, Hardy county. The district over which John Brown presided was of wide territorial extent, covering the whole of what was then known as Western Virginia, or the Valley and the entire State of West Virginia. Thus Staunton, where the sessions of the court were held, was the most important point for the legal profession in Virginia. This fact accounts for the possession by this quiet village for many years of the most learned and ablest bar in the State, among whom, as residents, may be mentioned the following, whose names are as familiar as household words in Virginia: Daniel Sheffey, John Howe Peyton, Chapman Johnson and Briscoe G. Baldwin. Among the visiting lawyers were William Wirt, H. St. G. Tucker, John Wickham, B. W. Leigh, Philip P. Barbour and others. On his election, Judge Brown, who well knew how far the sterling merits of Henry J. Peyton raised him above the standard of ordinary men, and what were his peculiar talents for such an office, appointed him clerk of his court. The station was accepted, and Mr. Peyton removed to Staunton in 1802. Here he lived until 1816, when he resigned the clerkship and returned to Frederick. It is not known what motives caused him to take this course, but as he was now near fifty years of age; had grown—according to Mr. George Fuller, living in Staunton in 1888, in his

eighty-sixth year, and who remembers Mr. Peyton perfectly well—quite corpulent, and his giving way would lead to the promotion of a young friend and connection, William S. Eskridge, a meritorious young man of small means, who had recently married Judge Brown's daughter, Margaret, it is the opinion of the writer that Mr. Peyton was actuated, not so much by the growing irksomeness of his clerical duties, as by a desire to advance the interest of a young connection to whom he was much attached. To a man of his soul, an act of this nature gave him more true happiness than the possession of any office whatever. Such acts prove the existence and value of true friendship.

In his new home, Mr. Peyton was soon as well known and as highly respected and esteemed as in his old one. Kind of heart, unostentatious, charitable and public-spirited, he attracted the notice and acquired the friendship of all those whose friendship was worth having. As a business man he was orderly, methodical and persevering in his work; every hour had its duties; every day its business, and yet recreation and innocent pleasures were not denied their hour, so that his life moved on with that well-regulated spirit of diligence which makes duty the rule of life. He took an active part in all public improvements, especially those which would promote the comfort and happiness of the unfortunate; visited the jails, alms-houses and asylums, and sought to better the condition of the inmates by securing them more light, purer air and better water, and to preserve them from fevers and other diseases by these means and thorough drainage.

His tastes were social; he was fond of company, and the late Colonel William M. Peyton informed the

writer, many years ago, that he kept open house and that his dinners were famous.

In person he was, according to Mr. George Fuller, tall and strongly built, and, as he grew older, becoming quite corpulent; his complexion was ruddy, his features large, with a striking general appearance. His eye of brown was keen and penetrating; his gait quick and animated, his manners gentle and sweet. He was punctual to a minute in keeping his engagements, and was often forced to leave company in the midst of an interesting anecdote or argument, so that his habit, in this respect, was said to amount to a virtue. All of his dealings, public and private, were marked by the most inflexible integrity; he would not admit that there was any middle course between right and wrong. It was through his efforts and those of the late Judge Archibald Stuart and John H. Peyton, that Mr. King was ordained deacon of the Episcopal church in Staunton, in 1811, which led to the re-opening of the church in 1820, under Rev. Daniel Stephens, D. D., a zealous and devoted pastor, who won the love and confidence of his congregation. In a word, Henry Peyton was a large-minded and large-hearted man, true to his friends and faithful to his duties, private and public, and though he had so modest an estimate of his abilities as to style himself a plodder, he was an infinitely wiser and better man than thousands whom the world honors with the name of great.

John L. Peyton.

BATH COUNTY.

Bath was formed in 1791, from Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier. The clerks have been:

1. Charles Cameron, from 1791 to 1814, - 23 years.
2. Charles L. Francisco, deputy of Cameron from 1801 to 1814, and clerk of county court from 1814 to June, 1838, in all, 37 years.
   And clerk of circuit court from 1809 to 1852, - - - - - - - - - - - - 43 years.
3. Stephen A. Porter, from 1838 to 1858, - 20 years.
4. Charles R. McDannald, from 1858 to 1869, when he was removed by military authority, but continued to discharge the duties of the office as deputy of his brother, Wm. H. McDannald, who was appointed clerk, until the death of the latter in 1874, when C. R. McDannald was appointed clerk *pro tem.* till July, 1875, making his entire time of service - - - - - 17 years.
5. Adam G. Cleek, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.
   And re-elected in May, 1887.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF BATH CLERKS.

Colonel Charles Cameron was born in Scotland, and came to America in early life with Samuel Woods, of Albemarle. He was a man of liberal education, and of high character in all respects; was a good clerk, and highly esteemed throughout his life of seventy-seven years, having been born in 1759 and died in 1829. He first married a Miss Miller, a sister of

Samuel Miller, of Augusta county, who died soon after Colonel Cameron's removal to Botetourt county. He was captain of a company from that county in the famous battle of Point Pleasant, where he received a severe wound in the leg. His two brothers, George and Hugh Cameron, and three half-brothers, named Murray, were killed in the same battle. He was also a soldier in the Revolutionary war—was a lieutenant in Colonel Stephens' regiment; was in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown; and afterwards captain of a company in Colonel Sampson Matthews' regiment of General Campbell's brigade.

Colonel Cameron was elected clerk at the first court held for Bath county, at the house of Margaret Lewis, at the Warm Springs, on the 10th day of May, 1791. He had also been appointed as one of the first justices and the first colonel of the militia of the county. His second wife was Rachel Warwick, daughter of Jacob Warwick, of Bath county, who was in the battle of Point Pleasant with Colonel Cameron, where they met for the first time. He (Warwick) was a man of great energy, and owned large tracts of the best lands in Bath and Pocahontas counties. Colonel Cameron held the office of clerk and faithfully performed its duties until April, 1814, when he resigned, and died in July, 1829, from the effects of the wound in his leg at the battle of Point Pleasant. His widow received a pension for his services in the Revolutionary war.

Charles Lewis Francisco, who succeeded Colonel Cameron as clerk, was born in Kentucky, his parents having removed to Kentucky from the Valley of Virginia. He was qualified as deputy under Colonel Cameron in April, 1801, and performed the most of

the duties of clerk, as the records of that time show. After the resignation of Colonel Cameron, in April, 1814, he was elected by the justices clerk of the county court, and held the office until the June term, 1838, when he was defeated by Stephen A. Porter, after one of the most exciting elections that was ever held in the county, which is even now often spoken of by the old citizens of the county, the candidates being Charles L. Francisco and Stephen A. Porter. Francisco was an excellent clerk, and had always performed the duties of the office faithfully. Porter was very popular, and a man of first-rate character. There were twenty-one justices on the bench, of whom Porter received twelve votes and Francisco nine. As soon as the election of Porter was announced, Francisco resigned his office for the remainder of his term, and Porter was appointed clerk *pro tem.* for the unexpired term, and qualified as clerk on the 5th day of July, 1838. Mr. Francisco had held the office of county clerk as deputy and as principal for the long period of thirty-seven years; but he had held the office of circuit court clerk even longer than this, having been made the first clerk of the superior court of law in 1809, which in 1831 was changed to the circuit superior court of law and chancery, and continued so until 1852, when Stephen A. Porter became clerk both of the county and circuit courts, Mr. Francisco having held the office from 1809 to 1852, a period of forty-three years. He died at his home at the Warm Springs in May, 1859, having been a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church for twenty-five years.

Stephen A. Porter, the third clerk of Bath county, was the son of Adam Porter, and was born in the year 1812. He was elected clerk of the county court over C. L. Francisco in June, 1838; was re-elected by the justices in 1845 for a term of seven years, and under the constitution of 1852 he was elected by the people clerk of the county, thereby becoming *ex officio* clerk of the circuit court, which offices he held until 1st July, 1858. Mr. Porter never held any other office. He was a very popular man and a good clerk. He built up the Healing Springs property, and was proprietor of them for a number of years. He also assisted in the management of the Rockbridge Alum Springs for several seasons prior to his death, which was brought about by injuries received by being thrown from the top of a stage on the road from Goshen Depot to the Rockbridge Alum Springs, in May, 1870.

Charles R. McDannald, the fourth clerk of Bath county, was the son of John McDannald. He acted as deputy in the office of Stephen A. Porter, and did most of the business of the office (as the records show) from 1852 to 1858, when he was elected clerk; and again in 1864. He was removed by the military government in 1869, because he could not take the "iron-clad" oath, and his brother, William H. McDannald, who could take the oath, was appointed clerk in his stead on the 12th of January, 1869. Charles R. McDannald qualified as his brother's deputy, and performed all the duties of the office, receiving its emoluments. William H. McDannald was reappointed by Judge Seig the clerk of the county court in May, 1870, and C. R. McDannald qualified as his deputy, discharging the duties of the office until the death of W. H. McDan-

nald, in January, 1874, when Charles R. McDannald was appointed clerk *pro tempore* to serve out his brother's unexpired term, which ended on the 1st day of July, 1875, when he was succeeded by Adam G. Cleek, who had been elected clerk in May, 1875.

C. R. McDannald was an excellent clerk, very systematic and accurate as to the business of the office, having a place for everything and everything in its place.

Adam G. Cleek, who succeeded Mr. McDannald 1st July, 1875, is a native of Bath county; has been an officer in the county since he arrived at manhood. He commenced as a constable on the 8th of June, 1847; was deputy sheriff January 1st, 1857, which office he held until 1860; was elected clerk over Charles R. McDannald in 1875; was re-elected clerk in 1881, and again at the election of May, 1887. He has always been a very popular man and a good clerk. George H. Mayse, his deputy, has done most of the business for the last five years.

BEDFORD COUNTY.

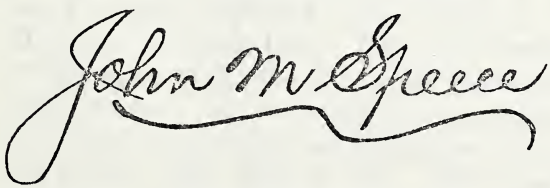
Bedford was formed from Lunenburg, in 1753, and has had seven clerks of the county court and five of the circuit court, without counting one of each court who was appointed by the military authority of District No. 1.

In the County Court.

1. Benjamin Howard, from June, 1754, to January 1, 1772, - - - - - - - - 18 years.
2. James Steptoe,* from January 1, 1772, to February, 1826, - - - - - - - - 54 years.
3. James C. Steptoe, (son of James), from February, 1826, to October, 1827, - 1 year.
4. Robert C. Mitchell, from November, 1827, to June, 1845, - - - - - - - - - 18 years.
5. John R. Steptoe, (grandson of James), from June, 1845, to July, 1852, - - 7 years.
6. Albon A. Arthur, from July, 1852, to January, 1869, - - - - - - - - 17 years.
7. Robert S. Quarles, (great-grandson of Jas. Steptoe), from April, 1870, to July, 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - - - 17 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

In the Circuit Court.

1. James C. Steptoe, from 1809 to 1827, - 18 years.
2. Joseph Wilson, from 1827 to 1855, - - 28 years.
3. Rowland D. Buford, from 1855 to 1881, 26 years.
4. McLeod Kasey, from 1881 to 1882, (died,) 1 year.
5. John M. Speece, from 1882 to 1887, - 5 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.



* James Steptoe was also clerk of the district court, composed of the counties of Bedford, Franklin, Campbell, Pittsylvania and Henry, from 1772 to 1797.

CLERKS OF BEDFORD COUNTY.

JAMES STEPTOE.

A handsome monument in the old burial-ground, near New London, bears the inscription, "JAMES STEPTOE, *born in 1750, died in 1826. For fifty-four years the clerk of Bedford county.*"

Such is the brief and simple record concerning a man who, for more than half a century, occupied one of the most prominent and honorable positions in what was once known as "the Old Dominion," and who was, in fact, one of the connecting links between two different forms of society, as well as two different forms of government, and a typical representative of both.

The ancestral home of the Steptoe family was known as "Hominy Hall," in Westmoreland county, Virginia, and James Steptoe, the subject of this sketch, was born there on the 16th day of July, 1750. He was connected by blood or marriage with three old families of Westmoreland whose names have become historic in the annals of Virginia: the Washingtons, the Lees, and the Ayletts. He bore his father's name, whose father's name was Philip Steptoe, of New Kent, and of whom we have an interesting account by the historian Campbell, published in the *Southern Literary Messenger* of March, 1841. This was a description of "Teddington Hall," the seat of the above-named Sir Philip Steptoe, with an inscription on a tombstone and the Steptoe coat-of-arms and crest, (a stag with antlers) and motto, "*Spes Mea in Deo.*" The inscription is as follows: "This tomb is sacred to the memory of Sir Philip Steptoe; in various employments of public trust

an example of loyalty to his king and affection to his country. In the several relations of life a pattern worthy of imitation. An equanimity which few are capable of conducted him, to whom fortune had been so auspicious, through the various scenes of life with success, and contributed to the ornament of a name the most exalted, not only with dignity but propriety. Not made imperious with advancement, he rose to almost the highest honors of his country. His rank and fortune made him most entensively useful. He was descended of an ancient family in England, which came to Virginia bearing a genteel and honorable character. On the 30th of May, 1748, in the 59th year of his age, his spirit returned to God who gave it, and his body reposes here, in the sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection." The elder James Steptoe's half-sister, Anne, married Colonel Samuel Washington, own brother of "the immortal George," in whose will his favorite nephew, George Stephen Washington, is named as one of the executors. Another half-sister of James Steptoe (Elizabeth) married Philip Ludwell Lee, from whom descended Henry Lee, Robert E. Lee, Richard Henry Lee, and others of that illustrious family.

Having thus traced briefly the lineage of James Steptoe, we will proceed to give a sketch of the man himself, and to portray his admirable character. He was educated at William and Mary College; and while there, when he was about twenty years of age, made the acquaintance of Thomas Jefferson, a fellow-student, who was a few years older than himself; and there grew up between them a very warm and close friendship, which continued through life, except for a very brief season (as will hereafter be more particularly

referred to), and they both died in the same year (1826). Mr. Steptoe's whole subsequent career seems to have been to some extent moulded and shaped by this early connection with Mr. Jefferson, who, as is well known, impressed his opinions on public questions, as well as his religious opinions, on others to a greater extent than any other man of his day. It was chiefly through Mr. Jefferson's influence with the colonial government, which then held a sort of vice-regal court at Williamsburg, that James Steptoe obtained and held, for about a year, an office under Secretary Nelson, from which he was transferred in 1772 (when he was just twenty-two years of age) to the clerkship of the district court, which was then held at New London, in Bedford county; and at the same time he was made clerk of Bedford county court, which he held to the close of his life, in 1826—fifty-four years. Bedford had, about twenty years before, been formed from Lunenburg county, and then embraced a large territory, out of which several other counties have since been formed. The population was sparse, and the people plain and generally uneducated—a very different state of society from that which James Steptoe had been accustomed to; and there is a tradition in the family that he had not occupied his new position more than a few months before he sought his friend Jefferson and begged him to obtain a different position for him, where he would be among more civilized and congenial people. Mr. Jefferson, however, prevailed on the discontented young clerk to remain where he was, assuring him that the state of things would improve, and that he would spend much of his time in the neighborhood, where he had a fine farm called "Poplar Forest"; and as a further

inducement for him to remain, he promised to send, and did send, young Alexander, another slip of gentility from the low country, for a deputy, as well as a companion. These and perhaps some other inducements reconciled James Steptoe to his position, and before he and Mr. Jefferson met again he had formed an acquaintance with a young lady of the neighborhood, a daughter of James Callaway,* who owned very large landed possessions in the county, and it was not long before *Miss Callaway* became *Mrs. Steptoe.*

A part of what follows is in the words of a lady living in Lynchburg, who married the grandson of James Steptoe, and who published in a Northern journal, some years ago, a well-written and pleasant article, under the title of "The Old Virginia Gentleman—The Clerk of Bedford County and his Great Friends." The incidents related of James Steptoe are well authenticated, being derived from members of the family who were well acquainted with the facts, and often related them very much in the form that they are here related:

"Just in sight of his last resting-place stands the old manor-house, built by James Steptoe, where his long and useful life was spent, and where nine sons and daughters, most of whom sleep now in the old graveyard near new London, were born to him. It was in this hospitable mansion that Mr. Steptoe loved to entertain his friend, Jefferson, when his old class-mate had become world-famous and world-weary, and in the intervals of rest from his public duties sought time for

*Colonel Callaway was the son of Sir William Callaway, was thrice married, and was the father of twenty-two children. His descendants are very numerous, and are scattered all over the Southern and Western States.

his studies and for company in his loved seclusion at Poplar Forest, which was some three miles from Mr. Steptoe's house. It was during one of these visits to Poplar Forest that General Jackson, on his way to Washington, just after the battle of New Orleans, dined with Mr. Jefferson at Mr. Steptoe's; and the two great men, meeting at the gate, dismounted from their horses, and exchanged salutations with each other and with their host, who waited for them within the lawn. Mr. Jefferson, waiving his hand, stood back for 'Old Hickory' to pass before him, when that doughty warrior, bowing low, said 'surely Mr. Jefferson does not think that I would go before an ex-President of the United States,' to which Mr. Jefferson courteously replied, 'It would ill become me to take precedence of the hero of New Orleans.' Thus the two great men stood, bowing and scraping at each other in the road, while Mr. Steptoe waited somewhat impatiently within the gate for his turn at greeting his guests, until at length General Jackson threw his arms about Mr. Jefferson and gently lifted him quite over the threshold; and then the General's aides, with other gentry from the neighborhood, came up, and we may fancy what a merry time they had over Mrs. Steptoe's sumptuous dinner, when the good dame, in the pride of her heart, had set out a silver service that had cost several hundred pounds sterling.

"But a day came when a shadow fell upon the friendship of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Steptoe, as clouds will fall on human friendships, and it was in this wise: Mr. Steptoe had another valued friend—Major James Gibbon, a gallant officer of the Revolutionary army, who led the forlorn hope at the storming and capture of

Stony Point. This old hero had been given the appointment of collector of customs at the port of Richmond, but had been removed by Mr. Jefferson because it had been represented to him that Major Gibbon was on familiar terms with Aaron Burr, who was then on trial at Richmond for acts charged against him as treasonable. Soon after this removal of Major Gibbon, Mr. Jefferson was on one of his annual visits to Poplar Forest, but his old friend James Steptoe, who was usually the first to welcome the illustrious visitor to his summer home, neither went in person nor sent a message of salutation to his life-long friend. Days lengthened into weeks, and still he made no sign; and at last Mr. Jefferson, on a bright summer morning, rode over to Mr. Steptoe's, and dismounted from his horse at the gate, and on entering the yard found Mr. Steptoe walking to and fro on his portico, apparently unconscious of his guest's arrival. Mr. Jefferson advanced with outstretched hand and cordial smile, but Mr. Steptoe gazed cold and stern upon his visitor, returning no look or word of kindness for the offered greeting of the President, who thus addressed him: 'Why, James Steptoe, how is this? I have been for weeks almost in a stone's throw of you, and though you have usually been the first to welcome me home, your face is now turned from me, and you give me no welcome to your house.' To this Mr. Steptoe coolly replied: 'Mr. Jefferson I have been disappointed in you, sir; you are not the man I took you to be. You know as well as I do that Major James Gibbon was a brave and meritorious officer of the revolutionary army; that he served under Aaron Burr, who was also a gallant soldier, and his officers were greatly attached to

him. Now when Colonel Burr has been brought to Richmond for trial, committed to prison and every indignity heaped on him, just because Major Gibbon has supplied his old commander with some necessaries and comforts, you, from hatred of Burr, have wreaked your vengeance on Gibbon, and deprived a faithful old soldier of an office which was his only means of support.' 'Why, Mr. Steptoe, is that all?' said Mr. Jefferson. 'I assure you the matter had not been so presented to me before. But the same hand that removed Major Gibbon can replace him, and justice shall be done him at once.' 'Then you are indeed my friend, and welcome as ever to my home and heart,' cried James Steptoe, and the two friends were quickly folded in each other's embrace. Mr. Steptoe's land and silver are gone; his bones have turned to dust; his resting-place is hidden with weeds and briars; his name will ere long be forgotten in the earth, but let us honor the man who would refuse the proffered hand of the President of the United States when that hand was stained by an unworthy act. Would that there were more Virginians of such metal in our day!"

No biography of James Steptoe would be complete without some reference to an event which has made his name somewhat historic. William Wirt, in his "Life of Patrick Henry," gives the following account, as showing the wonderful effect produced on those who heard Mr. Henry when indulging in his highest style of impassioned declamation. It must have been just overpowering. It was certainly so to the old clerk of Bedford on the occasion referred to, which is thus related:

"John Hook was a man of wealth, and not supposed to be over-friendly to the American cause. During

the distresses of the American army, consequent on the joint invasion of Cornwallis and Phillips, in 1781, a Mr. Venable, an army commissary, had taken two of Hook's steers for the use of the troops. The act had not been strictly legal; and, on the establishment of peace, Hook, on the advice of Mr. Cowan, a gentleman of some distinction in the law, thought proper to bring an action of trespass against Mr. Venable in the district court, held at New London. Mr. Henry appeared for the defendant, and is said to have deported himself in this cause to the great delight and enjoyment of his hearers, the unfortunate Hook always excepted. After Mr. Henry became animated in the cause, he appeared to have complete control over the passions of his audience; at one time exciting their indignation against Hook, when vengeance was visible in every countenance; again, when he chose to relax, and ridicule him, the whole audience was in a roar of laughter. He painted the distresses of the American army, exposed, almost naked, to the rigors of a wintry sky, and marking the frozen ground over which they marched with the blood of their unshod feet. Where was the man, he asked, who had an American heart in his bosom, who would not have thrown open his fields, his barns, his cellars, the doors of his house, the portals of his breast, to receive with open arms the meanest soldier in that little band of famished patriots? He carried the jury, by the powers of his imagination, to the plains around Yorktown, the surrender of which had followed shortly after the act complained of by Hook. He depicted the surrender in the most glowing colors of his eloquence; the audience saw before their eyes the humiliation and dejection of the British as they marched out of their

trenches; they saw the triumph that lighted up every patriotic face, and heard the shouts of victory—the cry of 'Washington and Liberty'—as it rung and echoed through the American ranks, and was reverberated from the hills and shores of the neighboring rivers; but, hark! What notes of discord are these that disturb the general joy and silence the acclamations of victory? They are the notes of John Hook, hoarsely bawling through the American camp, 'Beef!' 'Beef!' 'Beef!' The whole audience were convulsed. A particular incident will give a better idea of the effect than any general description. The clerk of the court, unable to command himself, and unwilling to commit any breach of decorum in his place, rushed out of the court-house and threw himself on the grass, where he was rolling in the most violent paroxysm of laughter, when John Hook, with very different feelings, came out for relief into the yard, and, addressing the clerk, said, 'Jemmy Steptoe, what ails you, mon?' Mr. Steptoe could only say, he could not help it. 'Never mind,' said Hook, 'wait till Billy Cowan gets up, and he'll show him the la'.' Billy Cowan did make an effort to 'get up,' but was so overwhelmed by the torrent that bore upon his client, that he was scarcely able to make an intelligible or audible remark. The cause was decided almost by acclamation, the jury returning almost instantly with a verdict for the defendant." So much for Mr. Wirt's account of the matter.

It is but an act of simple justice to say, however, that while the current of public opinion, under the magic influence of Mr. Henry's eloquence, ran for a time strongly against John Hook, yet, after the passions of men had become cooler, and the case came to be

looked at in its true light as an illegal proceeding on the part of the commissary, and that he was not really unfriendly to the American cause, the current was changed; and John Hook lived and died as a highly respected citizen, leaving descendants who are worthy of his name. It is no slight testimony in favor of his high standing and character that he was commissioned as a justice of the peace by Patrick Henry when he was Governor of Virginia.

The office of clerk has been held in the Steptoe family in its lineal and collateral branches for more than a hundred years, and one of his great-grandsons (Robert Steptoe Quarles) is now the popular and efficient clerk of Bedford county.

The character of James Steptoe may be described in a few words—integrity, independence and the strictest form of republican simplicity; as to the last of which he seems to have made Mr. Jefferson his model and prototype. Though descended, as will be seen above, from a long line of the better class of English gentry, he never alluded to it himself; in fact, it was unknown even to his family until after his death, when they learned it through his correspondence. While this is so, he had a high appreciation of *blood* in horses, and throughout his life kept some about him of the best English stock. He was a man who held very decided opinions on all subjects, and would at times express them as to men and public affairs in very nervous language, being strong in his friendships and equally strong in his dislikes. As a *clerk*, he was everything that could be desired; polite and obliging, (as true gentlemen always are); careful and attentive in the business of his office and in court, and ready at

all times to give information and advice to those who needed it.

The engraved likeness which accompanies this sketch is a reduced copy of an oil painting in the possession of F. J., taken by Harvey Mitchell in 1826, the year of the old gentleman's death, and is the original of "The Old Virginia Gentleman" in Dr. Bagby's admirable lecture, "Bacon and Greens," where he describes the O. V. G. so naturally as sitting with a book in his hand by the side of his open secretary, with an ink-stand in which is stuck a long goose-quill pen, and where, besides his papers, he kept his powder-gourd, shot-bag, gun-flints, horse-shoe nails, and other things, including a stick of licorice, which he always kept by him as an expectorant—all exactly as I have often seen him, when a boy, on visits to him with my brothers. The picture on the wall is that of his life-long friend, Thomas Jefferson, and the map is one of Fry and Jefferson's, referred to in Jefferson's Notes on Virginia. A distant view of the Peaks of Otter, as seen through the open window, gives additional interest to the scene, which is true to life in every particular.

As stated above, James Steptoe left a family of five sons—*James C.*, who succeeded his father as clerk; *William*, who became an eminent physician; *George*, whose son, John R. Steptoe, was the fifth clerk of Bedford; *Robert C.* and *Thomas;* and four daughters—*Elizabeth P.*, who married Charles Johnston (father of the present writer); *Frances*, who married Henry S. Langhorne; *Lucy*, who married Robert Penn, and *Sally*, who married William Massie, whose son, Thomas J., was the third clerk of Nelson county.

P. S.—Since the foregoing was written, I have come

Jno. Wesley Hall

into possession of the original commission of James Steptoe as clerk of Bedford county, in the neat and clerical handwriting of Secretary Nelson, which is here copied as a valued historical relic.

"To all to whom these presents shall come, THOMAS NELSON, Esquire, sendeth greeting: Know ye, that I, the said Thomas Nelson, by virtue of the powers and authorities to me granted by the Honorable William Adair, Esquire, secretary of this his Majesty's colony and dominion of Virginia, do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint *James Steptoe*, Gentleman, to be clerk of the county of Bedford: to have and to hold the said place and office of clerk of said county, to him the said *James Steptoe*, with all fees, privileges, profits and perquisites whatsoever to the said place and office in any wise appertaining, during pleasure; and I do hereby revoke all former commissions granted for the said place. *In witness*, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal, at Williamsburg, the seventeenth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King George the Third.

"THOS. NELSON."

ROBERT CRUMP MITCHELL, son of William Manning and Sallie Mitchell (neé Hawkins), was born in the county of Amherst, on the 28th day of December, 1807. His father was descended from one of the Huguenot families that fled from persecution in France, and settled in New Kent county, Virginia, in 1700. The name was then written *Michel*. Mr. Robert Mitchell's mother was a grand-daughter of the famous Benjamin Borden, who came to Virginia in 1736, and

to whom was granted by the king of Great Britain an immense boundary of land, containing three hundred thousand acres, lying in what was then known as West Augusta, embracing the counties of Augusta, Rockbridge, Botetourt, &c., upon condition of his getting a certain number of British subjects to settle on it. Mr. Borden was quite successful in the enterprise, and reaped a rich harvest from it, though he eventually had a great deal of trouble and litigation with the settlers.

Robert C. Mitchell inherited no part of his ancestor's wealth; and when only twelve years of age, at his father's death, he was put into the clerk's office of Bedford county, under the care and training of his maternal uncle, James C. Steptoe, who was for many years the deputy of his father, James Steptoe, former clerk of Bedford, and subsequently succeeded his father in office. On the death of James C. Steptoe, in 1827, Robert C. Mitchell was elected clerk by the justices of the county court, on the 27th day of November, 1827, and at once entered on the discharge of his duties. He was a remarkably handsome man, rather above medium height, closely and compactly built, dark hair, large black eyes, ruddy complexion, and weighed about one hundred and sixty pounds. His figure was striking for its symmetry; his disposition was quick and impulsive, though he was generous and forgiving; he was quiet and gentle in his deportment; affable, courteous and polite, and warm in his friendships. He was a man of the strictest integrity of character; open-hearted, and free from and above anything like trickery, chicanery, demagogism or meanness of any kind—qualities which his soul abhorred, and when such things were

related of others, or mentioned in his presence, it was not easy for him to restrain his severe and outspoken condemnation. He wrote a singularly beautiful hand, and though not remarkably rapid, yet he was physically able to undergo great labor at his desk, and he never seemed to become weary. His writing was so even and close (seldom making a mistake or error), that it was astonishing at the close of the day to find how much he had accomplished. He was proud of his profession, and loved it; his work was at all times the perfection of neatness; his records were always kept up, carefully compared, examined and noted; his books properly indexed; his fees correctly charged; his papers conveniently folded, endorsed, labelled and filed. Take him altogether, as county court clerk he had no superior, and very few equals. Notwithstanding all this, at the regular election in June, 1845, owing to some temporizing and selfishness (to speak softly) on the part of some of the justices, Mr. Mitchell was defeated, and a sad day it was for the people of the county. On the first day of July following he, through the young man who had been his deputy, delivered the key of the office to his successor. Mr. Mitchell had left it the evening previous in perfect order; nothing was left undone, and so it was delivered over with all his books and other things connected with his office, which were models of convenience, accuracy and neatness.

After his defeat, he retired to a farm that he owned about four miles from Liberty, and gave it his personal attention for several years. During this period he was elected a delegate to represent Bedford county in the General Assembly of Virginia; but his mind became

weary of the farm, and he sighed for some employment more exciting and remunerative. He had a large and increasing family, and felt it to be his duty to engage in some business more in keeping with his former life. In 1852, he undertook, in connection with an experienced railroad contractor, a contract on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad (now Norfolk and Western) to make part of the road-bed in Bedford county. The contract was a large one, and he succeeded in making handsome profits from it. Subsequently he was elected cashier of the Merchants Bank of Lynchburg, which position he accepted, and the bank did a fine business; he, however, grew weary at being separated from his family, his residence being thirty miles from Lynchburg, and he resigned the office and returned to his home. In 1866, he was chosen Senator for the district composed of the counties of Bedford and Amherst. Subsequently he accepted the position of cashier of the Liberty branch of the Lynchburg Insurance and Banking Company, which he conducted successfully for several years, and until his health gave way, when he resigned the position. He gradually grew worse, until death relieved him of his sufferings, at his own residence, Wheatley, on the 5th day of June, 1872, where his remains were interred in the family burying-ground, attended by a large concourse of people who had always admired, respected and loved him. We doubt whether he was ever really contented after he left the clerk's office, the duties of which he had discharged so efficiently and faithfully; and his defeat, especially in the way it was accomplished, was as a festering sore to him during the remainder of his life. His domestic life was a happy one; his wife had been

quite a belle in her youth, fascinating, intelligent, pretty and gay; in fact, she was a most charming woman in all respects. The fruit of their marriage was sixteen children, twelve of whom, (six boys and six girls), reached maturity; all handsome and intelligent, and several of the daughters were remarkable for their beauty.

Mr. Mitchell doted on his wife and children, and they on him; he enjoyed innocent amusements very much, and delighted in a pleasant joke—gave them and received them. He was, for a number of years, a consistent member of the Methodist Church (South); was steward in the church at Liberty, and was often the delegate of his church to its representative meetings.

The late Joseph Wilson, son of John Wilson and Sarah Wilson (neé Hunter), was born in Bedford county, Virginia. His father was an Englishman, and a tailor by trade. Mr. John Wilson, owning but a small portion of worldly goods, through the influence of the late John Alexander, the then clerk of the courts of Campbell county, Virginia, was induced to remove with his family to that county. At an early age, and with but little education, Mr. Joseph Wilson was taken into the clerk's office of Campbell county, and, under the care and training of Mr. Alexander, he became an accomplished clerk. His health was delicate from infancy, and, after reaching maturity, he weighed usually about one hundred and ten pounds. He was about medium height, dark gray eyes, thick suit of dark hair, features small and regular, exceedingly thin and spare, in person, a great sufferer from dyspepsia, physically so frail and weak that he was compelled to use a

cane, and even then often swayed as he walked, and was a little bent. He suffered much with pain about his loins from confinement to his duties, and so intense were his sufferings at times that he would, for temporary relief, change his position from the ordinary sitting posture and double his lean, bony legs under him, like a tailor on his bench, and then again for a while sit on first one leg doubled under him and then the other, and then again he would *stoop* in his chair for a while on both feet and then first on one foot and then the other; and yet, in any position he would assume, it apparently made no difference in his writing —all that seemed necessary to enable him to write was simply the use of his hand; in that respect he was a wonderful man; he had a horror of the steel pen, and would not permit one in his office. He was a man of unusually fine common sense; observant, quick to discern; rather slow to speak; if in error, it required strong, solid logic to convince him of it; and he adhered to his own conclusions, when deliberately formed, with great tenacity, yet he was charitable and just.

On the death of James C. Steptoe, clerk of the circuit superior court of Bedford county, the Honorable William Daniel, judge of the court, who was well acquainted with Mr. Wilson's capacity and fitness for the office, tendered him the appointment, which he accepted, and returned to his native county, and qualified and entered upon his office duties in November, 1827, which position he held, by subsequent appointment and election, until his death, which occurred on the 23d of January, 1855, in about the fifty-fifth year of his age. He had no superior as a circuit court clerk; wrote a beautiful running hand, plain and easily read,

and was the swiftest penman we have ever known. He always wrote with a quill pen, and it mattered very little whether he wrote with the under part or back of the pen next the paper; he very rarely made or mended his pen. On coming into his office he would pick up any pen that came first, and write away with astonishing ease and beauty. It was tantalizing to the ordinary penman to sit and watch his pen move with such ease and rapidity. He was generally neat as well as accurate, though sometimes, when in a great hurry in court, he would run his finger through a mistake in fresh ink and write right through it. He could transact more business, and do it correctly, and do more writing in a given length of time, than any other clerk or person we have ever known.

Mr. Wilson was appointed and acted as one of the commissioners in chancery of his court. He was a capital accountant, and did thoroughly and properly whatever business he undertook or devolved on him. So familiar was he with the duties of his office as clerk, and so well had he become versed in the chancery practice of the court, and such his facility for writing up the court orders, that he often, after the judge had announced his decision from the bench, prepared and entered in the order book the decree in the cause, without even a note or memorandum as a guide. He was not a stickler for forms, yet he was concise, thorough, accurate, and so well informed in the statute law that his judgment was often sought and relied on by the members of the bar and the people generally. He was a man of public spirit, and took great interest in National as well as State affairs. In politics he was a Whig of the Webster-Clay school, but was neither

fussy nor boisterous; his opinions were his own, and he was neither afraid nor ashamed to express them on proper occasions. He was eminently a conservative man. When the scheme for building the Virginia and Tennessee railroad (now part of Norfolk and Western railroad from Lynchburg to Bristol) was suggested he considered the subject maturely, became fully convinced of its utility and value, and greatly aided in carrying it successfully through. After the formation of the company, he was elected one of its directors, and proved to be a useful one. Though physically weak and delicate at all times, he was fond of society, and enjoyed and sometimes engaged in its innocent amusements. When not busy, and in times of political excitement, he occasionally talked and discussed pleasantly and sensibly the issues between the Whig and Democratic parties. An old Democratic friend of his, residing not far from the court-house, and who was very deaf, frequently sought his company to talk politics. One was as decided and fixed in his opinions as the other, but they were warm personal friends, and there was never a jar between them. It was amusing to "lookers-on" to witness the interviews. The hotter the canvass, the more frequent the visits. His Democratic friend would walk into the office, and, after customary salutations, the fun would begin. His friend was so deaf that it was necessary for him to put his hand to his ear to catch the sound of Mr. Wilson's voice. The position he thus assumed, and his intent gaze into Mr. Wilson's face, and the high key to which Mr. Wilson was compelled to pitch his voice in order to be heard, and the frequency of the scene, was truly amusing. On one of the occasions just mentioned, a

Whig friend of Mr. Wilson happened to step in, and, taking in the situation at a glance, he humorously said to Mr. Wilson: "Why, Joe, this is a scheme concocted by the Democrats to break you down." The joke was enjoyed by all around, and by none more than Mr. Wilson himself. Mr. Wilson was a fine tactician; he understood men and measures; *his man* or *men* were generally nominated at party county conventions, and they were among the best.

On the 13th of March, 1829, Mr. Wilson and Miss Mary Jane Campbell were married by the late Rev. Nicholas H. Cobbs. Mrs. Wilson was the daughter of Mr. Robert Campbell, one of the most intelligent and wealthy farmers of Bedford county. The fruit of the marriage was twelve children, only eight of whom reached maturity. Mr. Wilson's residence was in Liberty; his hospitable dwelling was often the scene of great enjoyment and pleasure to the aged and the young in the town. Mr. Wilson survived his wife several years. Until within a year or two just preceding his death, the business of his office was kept in fine condition; but disease had preyed upon his delicate frame and death had robbed him of his dear wife, who by her unceasing care and watchfulness had helped to prolong his life, and, added to this, the death of a daughter just verged into womanhood, and lovely in all that adorned human nature and added zest, refinement, enjoyment and pleasure to the household—these terrible afflictions bore heavily upon him, and, coupled with his physical sufferings, broke him down. He spent the winter of 1853-4 in Florida in quest of renewed health, which was somewhat improved; but on returning home in the spring, the weather became raw

and chilly, and he contracted a severe cold, from the effects of which he died on the 25th of January, 1855. His remains were interred near his residence, and several years since, his, as well as those of other members of his family, were removed and reinterred in Longwood cemetery, near Liberty.

In concluding this sketch, it is due to the memory of Mr. Wilson to say that but for his liberality and his personal influence and zeal, the Episcopal church now standing in Liberty would not have been erected when it was. He was firm in his faith in the Christian religion and in his affection for the Protestant Episcopal Church. But for the circumstances by which he was surrounded during his last illness, and the blighted hope of renewed health, he would have come out and united himself with the church of his choice.

R. D. B.

SKETCH OF ROWLAND D. BUFORD.

Among the many excellent clerks that the county of Bedford has been blessed with, none have been more skillful, intelligent and efficient than R. D. Buford. In some respects he was a model clerk, all the records and papers of his office being kept in perfect order, and everything done in the right way and at the right time, which cannot be said for all clerks. At an early age he was placed by his father, Captain Paschal Buford, in the office of Colonel S. McD. Reid, who, for more than forty years, was the efficient and highly esteemed clerk of Rockbridge county, under whose eye and care young Buford went through a regular training as clerk; and he well repaid all the care and pains bestowed on him by his excellent preceptor. After a service of several

years as deputy, he went to his native county (Bedford) and was elected clerk of the circuit court in the year 1855, which office he held until 1865, when he was removed by military authority, but was restored in 1870, when he was again elected, and held the office until 1881, when he was succeeded by McLeod Kasey, who lived but a little more than one year, and was succeeded by the present clerk, J. Morton Speece, who was at one time his deputy, and who promises to be a worthy successor.

R. D. Buford's skill, intelligence and usefulness as a clerk have given him a wide-spread and well-deserved notoriety; and he has been frequently called upon to examine clerks' offices and report their condition—a duty which he has always performed in the most satisfactory manner. Perhaps no clerk has ever been more attentive and more exact in the matter of *charging fees* than R. D. Buford, and his fee-books are models of neatness and *correct charging*. The only thing in the way of *complaint* that I have ever heard made against him (and which I considered rather a matter of praise than of complaint) was his extreme particularity in keeping the chancery and other papers closely under his eye and hand; never allowing them to go out of his office without taking a receipt, and holding the lawyers to a strict account for them. If all clerks were equally particular, we should have less trouble and confusion growing out of *lost papers*.

F. J.

BLAND COUNTY.

Bland was formed in 1861, from Wythe, Giles and Tazewell. The clerks have been (of both courts):

1. J. W. Tracey, from 1861 to 1865, - - 4 years.
2. F. F. Repass, from 1865 to 1871, - - - 6 years.
3. W. F. Hamilton, from 1871 to 1880, - 9 years.
4. J. M. Hamilton, from 1880 to 1881, - 1 year.
5. W. H. Crawford, from 1881 to 1885, - 4 years.
6. C. P. Muncey, from 1885 to 1887, - - 2 years.
   And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

BOTETOURT COUNTY.

Botetourt was formed from Augusta in 1769. It was then an immense territory, extending to the Mississippi river on the west and the Ohio on the north, embracing the present States of Kentucky and West Virginia. The clerks have been:

1. John May, from 1770 to 1778, - - - 8 years.
2. David May, from 1778 to 1788, - - - 10 years.
3. Henry Bowyer, from 1788 to 1831, - - 43 years,
4. Henry W. Bowyer, clerk circuit court from 1831 to 1845, - - - - - - - 14 years.
5. George Neville, clerk circuit court from 1845 to 1858, - - - - - - - - - 13 years.
6. Ferdinand Woltz, clerk county court from 1838 to 1864, - - - - - - - - - 27 years.

7. George W. Wilson, clerk circuit court from 1864 to 1867, - - - - - - - 3 years.
8. William M. Lackland, clerk county and circuit courts from 1865 to 1867, - - 2 years.
9. John Camper, (military appointee), from 1867 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 3 years.
10. Thomas J. Godwin, (circuit court), from 1871 to 1873, (resigned), - - - - - 2 years.
11. Brown M. Allen, clerk county and circuit courts from 1872 to 1883, (died), - - 11 years.
12. B. W. Reid, clerk county and circuit courts from 1882 to 1883, - - - - 1 year.
13. James McDowell, clerk county and circuit courts from 1883 to 1887, - - - 4 years.

SKETCH OF COLONEL HENRY BOWYER.

Early in the war of the Revolution, Colonel Bowyer was living in Fincastle with his uncle, Mike Bowyer, who carried on a store in that place, in which Henry Bowyer, then about sixteen years old, acted in the capacity of salesman and clerk. His uncle having determined to enter the army, upon leaving Fincastle for that purpose, committed the management of the store to his nephew, with directions to continue the business until the goods were disposed of. This, according to young Bowyer's mode of conducting the business, required but a very short time; for, burning with a desire to join the army himself, no sooner had his uncle taken his departure than he put up the whole establishment at auction, sold the goods for what they would bring, and immediately set out for the army. He first went to Philadelphia, but soon afterwards connected himself with Colonel Washington's corps of cavalry, with which

he continued to the end of the war. There is reason to believe that at one time he served with the infantry, from a circumstance he sometimes related as showing the undying hate which the British cherished towards the "rebels." It was this: After a skirmish, in which we were successful, young Bowyer was reloading his musket, and while doing so a wounded soldier of the enemy, who was lying on the ground near him, raised his head and begged for a drink of water. Having nothing else, Bowyer took off his cap, and dipping up some water from a stream just at hand, gave it to the soldier, who, after satisfying his thirst, spurted a mouthful of water into Bowyer's face, with an oath of execration. His first impulse was to run his bayonet through him, but seeing his helpless condition, he restrained himself.

Colonel Bowyer was in that most bloody and disastrous engagement known as Buford's defeat. He acted as aide to Buford on the occasion, and during the day was ordered to bear a flag of truce to Tarlton, the British commander. Colonel Bowyer remonstrated with Buford against the undertaking, telling him that he must needs pass between the two armies, then hotly engaged, and thus be exposed to the fire of both. Colonel Buford replied "that he had his orders." Bowyer immediately put spurs to his horse and galloped off in the direction of Tarlton, who was surrounded by his staff. Just before reaching the spot where Tarlton was stationed, the horse of the latter had been shot, and in falling had caught Tarlton's leg under him, who, being much exasperated, and seeing Colonel Bowyer approaching with his flag of truce, ordered his men to "cut the d—d rebel down." No

sooner was this spoken than they surrounded Colonel Bowyer and commenced cutting at him with their swords. At this critical moment, however, a well-directed fire from our men (some of whom were watching with great interest the result of Colonel Bowyer's hazardous undertaking), set the horses of those around him to jumping and rearing, and thus an opening was made sufficient to pass through. Of this he instantly availed himself, neither he nor his horse, to use his own expression, "liking the company they were in." He was pursued for a considerable distance, and only escaped by leaping a high fence. Those in pursuit did not attempt to follow him, although close upon his heels. His horse afterwards fell from loss of blood from the wounds he received in the attempt to deliver the flag. By this time our men were running in every direction, and Colonel Bowyer met with one of them who was so badly wounded that he could scarcely walk. Dismounting, he put the wounded man on his horse and reached in safety a cabin near by in the woods, which afforded him shelter for the night.

At one time Colonel Bowyer was stationed in Petersburg. While there, he performed a feat of horsemanship which, in process of time, was somewhat exaggerated. As the story ran, he leaped over a covered wagon standing in the street, and the prints of his horse's hoofs were visible for a long time afterwards. Upon this being repeated to Colonel Bowyer in his old age by a lady who lived in Petersburg at the time, he was much amused, and said it was true that he had leaped over a wagon, but it was a small one and had no cover on it. His own account of the affair was this: A company of officers, among whom was Colonel Washington, had

gone with Colonel Bowyer to a party in the country, and returning at night in a gallop, they encountered a wagon standing in the road. Colonel Bowyer being mounted on a remarkably fine horse, succeeded in clearing it, but none of the company followed him. It was about the same time that Peter Francisco performed his famous feat, in his encounter with nine British dragoons, one of whom he disarmed and put the others to flight. The two events were often spoken of together, and thus Colonel Bowyer's name was in every mouth.

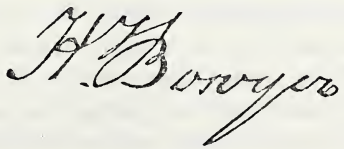
After the war was ended, Colonel Bowyer returned to Fincastle, and was subsequently elected by the justices clerk of the county court of Botetourt, which office he held for forty-three years, with great acceptance to the people of his county, to the bar and to the justices, many of whom were men of great distinction in their day and generation. Those were the palmy days of the old county court system, when the justices were the first men of the county, and administered justice in a way that has never been excelled, and perhaps not equaled by their successors. The clerks, too, were men of the highest standing and character, many of them well versed in statute law, and relied on by the court as advisers. Of this class was Colonel Bowyer, who enjoyed, in a high degree, the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Colonel Bowyer died in 1832, aged seventy-two years, and was buried with military honors as a gallant soldier of the Revolutionary army. He married Miss Agatha Madison, daughter of Thomas Madison, of Botetourt, whose wife was a sister of Patrick Henry, and he was a brother of Bishop Madison. One of his sons, John,

was for a long time a deputy of his father in the clerk's office, and another son, Henry W., succeeded his father as clerk of both the courts of Botetourt from the year 1831 to 1845.

There is a personal reminiscence connected with Colonel Bowyer that I think worth adding to this biographical sketch. It will be remembered that General LaFayette visited the United States in the year 1823; and in the same year a meeting was appointed, at his request, (to be held at Columbia, South Carolina), of a large number of his compatriots in arms, who, with General LaFayette, had been connected with the Southern army under General Greene. Colonel Bowyer attended that meeting, with two other officers of "Lee's Legion," (with which, as a portion of Colonel Washington's corps of cavalry, Colonel Bowyer was connected), viz., Major James Garden (who published a volume of "Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War") and my uncle, the late Judge Peter Johnston. These three appointed a meeting the following summer at Botetourt Springs, then the residence of my father, Charles Johnston; and the three old friends and brothers in arms were together under my father's roof for several weeks in the summer of 1824. And a fine time they had of it—going over the stirring events of the war, and relating various incidents in which they had borne a common part and a common danger. Amongst other things talked of and discussed was that curious question about which a great deal has been said and written, viz., the identity of Captain Michael Rudolph (who was also connected with "Lee's Legion," and therefore well known to the three officers above mentioned of the same command) with Marshal Ney,

who has a world-wide fame, and was honored by Napoleon Bonaparte with the title of "the bravest of the brave." They all had a vivid recollection of Captain Rudolph, and knew that he was conspicuous for his gallantry in nearly all the battles of the Southern department; in fact, no officer in Greene's army was oftener complimented for good conduct. They had heard, too, of what had been said about his career after the close of the war; that he had had domestic difficulties; had left America on a merchant vessel, and established a tobacco store in Bordeaux; of his having been recognized in Paris by Mr. Livingston, the American minister, who always insisted that he was no other than Marshal Ney. But against all this was the stubborn fact that Marshal Ney (according to all the authorities on the subject) was not born until 1770, and could not have been more than sixteen years old when the Revolutionary war commenced, nor more than twenty-one when he had reached almost the zenith of his fame, and when Mr. Livingston saw him in Paris and recognized him as Captain Rudolph whom he had known in America. Notwithstanding this discrepancy of dates, however, there are many who have believed, and will continue to believe, that Captain Michael Rudolph, of the American army, and Michael Ney, Marshal of France, were the same person. F. J.



OTHER CLERKS OF BOTETOURT.

My personal acquaintance with the clerks of Botetourt county during the last fifty years enables me to speak of them knowingly.

Henry W. Bowyer, who succeeded his father, Colonel Henry Bowyer, was a well-trained and skillful clerk, but was somewhat unfortunate in his manner, which was stiff and formal towards the people generally, while he was sociable and pleasant with a small circle of intimate friends. The result was, that he was never very popular, and if he had been dependent on a popular vote would probably not have held his office as long as he did, which was fourteen years.

George Neville, who had been the deputy of H. W. Bowyer, and succeeded him as clerk of the circuit court, was a very good clerk, and very popular.

Ferdinand Woltz, who had been well trained in the office of Henry W. Bowyer, (having entered it as deputy at the age of thirteen years), became one the most skillful clerks that Botetourt county ever had, being an intelligent gentleman with pleasing, genial manners. In former times, much more than in these latter days, young men entered the clerk's office as a school, where they could learn methodical habits of business, besides many other things that would fit them for the active duties of life. Not a few applied themselves to the study of the law, and became distinguished members of the legal profession, and some of these (as the late Judges Brooke, Pendleton and Coulter, of the court of appeals, and Judge Wingfield, of the circuit court of the Bedford circuit) besides many others, became ornaments of the bench. The old clerks held their offices during

life or, what was the same thing, during good behavior, and therefore were not afraid of being opposed by their deputies when their terms expired; and they were willing to teach them all they could, not keeping them confined to the mere drudgery of the office. This is not so at the present day, when the clerk is looking forward to a re-election, and finds, or thinks he finds, it to be to his interest to teach his deputies just as little as possible, lest they may become his competitors for the office. The result is that, generally speaking, the deputies have no such training as is indispensable to make a really good clerk. This was not so with Ferdinand Woltz, in whose favor his predecessor, Henry W. Bowyer, declined to be a candidate in the year 1838, and he was appointed by the justices clerk of the county court, H. W. Bowyer continuing to hold the clerkship of the circuit court, under the appointment af Judge Allen, until 1845, when he declined a re-appointment, and F. Woltz became the clerk of both courts, and held both offices, by subsequent elections by the people, to the close of the war in 1865. Just at the time when he became clerk of the county court (1838) the present writer was appointed by Judge Allen clerk of the circuit court of Roanoke, when F. Woltz kindly offered to aid me, and did aid me, not only at the first term of Roanoke circuit court, held in September, 1838, but at one or more subsequent terms, and I take pleasure in acknowledging my obligations for the same. As we commenced our career as clerks at the same time, we ended them at the same time, (in 1865), having held our respective offices for twenty-seven years, during the whole of which time we were on terms of the most pleasant and friendly intercourse with each other.

F. Woltz was succeeded by William M. Lackland, who had been deputy under H. W. Bowyer, before the war, studied and practiced law for a while, and was afterwards teller of the Bank of Virginia, at Buchanan. He had the training and the capacity to make a first-rate clerk, but became intemperate and careless as to his official duties, and held the office but a few years, when he was succeeded by Brown M. Allen, who, though he had not the training that his predecessors had, became a skillful and useful clerk, and was very popular. He was elected twice by popular vote, and had just entered upon his third term when he fell a prey to consumption, and died greatly regretted.

Thomas J. Godwin succeeded John Camper, military appointee, as clerk of the circuit court in 1870, and though he, like Allen, had no training or experience, made as good a clerk as could well be without such training and experience. He served but one term, and could have been elected again if he had become a candidate, but he positively declined, much to the regret of every one, for he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people of Botetourt as few men have done.

The service of George W. Wilson was during the last years of the war, when the courts did very little business, and the clerks had no opportunity to show their ability. That of B. W. Reid was even shorter than Wilson's. During the four years of J. McDowell's service he developed a decided capacity for the work of a clerk, and the office was left by him in very good condition.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY.

Brunswick was formed in 1720, from Surry and Isle of Wight. The clerks have been as follows:

Of the County Court.

1. Drury Stith, from 1732 to 1740, - - - 8 years.
2. Sterling Clack, from 1740 to 1751, - - 11 years.
3. Littleton Tazewell, from 1751 to 1757, - 6 years.
4. Archibald Wager, from 1757 to 1760, - 3 years.
5. John Robinson, from 1760 to 1770, - - 10 years.
6. Edward Fisher, from February 26, 1770, to November 20, 1770, - - - - - 9 mos.
7. Nath'l Edwards, Jr., from 1770 to 1771, 1 year.
8. Peter Pelham, Jr., from February 25, 1771, to March 26, 1771 (resigned), - 1 mo.
9. Drury Stith, from 1771 to 1789, - - - 18 years.
10. John Jones, from 1789 to 1793 (died), - 4 years.
11. Charles Binns Jones, from 1793 to 1797, 4 years.
12. Herbert Hill, from 1797 to 1816, - - - 19 years.
13. Robert Turnbull, from 1816 to 1839, - 23 years.
14. Charles Turnbull, from 1840 to 1843 (resigned), - - - - - - - - - - 3 years.
15. Edward Randolph Turnbull, from 1843 to 1885, - - - - - - - - - - - 42 years.
16. Robert Turnbull, from 1885 to 1887, - 2 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Edward Randolph Turnbull, Jr., from 1881 to 1883 (resigned), - - - - - 2 years.
2. Charles Edward May, from 1883 to 1887, 4 years. Re-elected in May, 1887 for six years.

CLERKS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY.

The first clerk of the county was DRURY STITH. Having been commissioned by Hon. Charles Carter, secretary of Virginia, this, the first incumbent of the clerkship of the county of Brunswick, qualified as clerk on the 11th day of May, 1732, and held the office until his death in June, 1740. He was the Colonel Drury Stith mentioned by Colonel William Byrd in "A Journey to the Land of Eden" (Westover MSS.), in the paragraph wherein the author, under the date of September 13, 1733, says: "By the way, I sent a runner half a mile out of the road to Colonel Drury Stith's, who was so good as to come to us. We cheered our hearts with three bottles of pretty good Madeira, which made Drury talk very hopefully of his copper mine. We easily prevailed with him to let us have his company, upon condition we would take the mine in our way."

The subject of this sketch was a son of Colonel John Stith, of Charles City county, a man of prominence and influence in the colony as early as 1676, a fact attested by his being disfranchised along with Colonel Edward Hill, of the same county, by the adherents of Nathaniel Bacon by an act of assembly passed during the period of Bacon's rebellion (chapter xx Bacon's laws, 2 Henning's Statutes at Large, page 364), but which, along with other acts and orders of the same assembly, was subsequently annulled by a royal proclamation, Colonel John Stith subsequently (in 1693) holding office in the colony as a member of the house of burgesses.

Colonel Drury Stith was an uncle of Rev. William

Stith, the historian, and in subsequent generations, during the last one hundred and fifty years, has been represented by a large number of descendants in Virginia and other Southern States, among them many persons of prominence and distinction in public and private life. His son, Drury Stith, represented the county of Brunswick in the house of burgesses in 1748. His wife was Susannah Bathurst, a daughter of Launcelot Bathurst, who emigrated from England to Virginia in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and was the second son of the Sir Edward Bathurst knighted in 1643 by Charles I.

Of the descendants of Colonel Drury Stith at least *eight* became clerks, certainly the following: Griffin Stith, one of the early clerks of the county court of Northampton; Drury Stith, Charles Turnbull, Edward Randolph Turnbull, Robert Turnbull, respectively the ninth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth clerks of the county court of Brunswick; Edward Randolph Turnbull, Jr., the first clerk of the circuit court of Brunswick after the separation of the offices; David Meade Bernard, the second clerk of the corporation court of Petersburg, and John Randolph Stith, one of the clerks of the county court of Northumberland.

The second clerk of the county court of Brunswick was Sterling Clack, who was commissioned clerk by the same secretary by whom his predecessor was commissioned. He qualified as clerk on the 5th day of June, 1740, and held the office until March 26, 1751.

Sterling Clack's successor was Littleton Tazewell, who was commissioned clerk by the Hon. Thomas Nelson, deputy secretary of Virginia, qualified as clerk

March 26, 1751, and held the office until April 26, 1757.

The fourth clerk of the county court of Brunswick was Archibald Wager. He was commissioned clerk by the same secretary who commissioned his predecessor, qualified as such on the 26th day of April, 1757, and held the office until the 5th day of February, 1760.

Archibald Wager's successor was John Robinson, who was commissioned clerk by Hon. Thomas Nelson, deputy secretary of Virginia, qualified as such on the 5th day of February, 1760, and held the office until the 26th day of February, 1770, when he resigned his office and removed from the county.

John Robinson's successor, and the sixth clerk of the county court of Brunswick, was Edward Fisher. Nathaniel Edwards received a commission as clerk from Hon. Thomas Nelson, deputy secretary of Virginia, but on the 26th day of February, 1770, the justices of the county, being of opinion that they had the power of appointment, refused to allow him to qualify and appointed Edward Fisher clerk, who qualified on that day, and held office until the 26th day of November, 1770, when he was succeeded by the duly commissioned clerk, said Nathaniel Edwards, Jr. On said last mentioned day said Edwards produced before the justices of the county a writ of *mandamus* commanding them to receive and qualify him as clerk under the commission issued to him as above stated, and he accordingly was allowed to qualify on that day, and held the office until the 25th day of February, 1771.

The next and eighth clerk of the county court was Peter Pelham, Jr., who qualified as clerk under a

commission from Secretary Nelson on the 25th day of February, 1771, and held the office until the 26th day of March, 1781, when he resigned, "he having been elected," says the record, "to be clerk of Greensville county, which had recently been established, his land being located in that county."

The next and ninth clerk of Brunswick county was Drury Stith, who on said 26th day of March, 1781, was appointed clerk by the justices of the county in the place of Peter Pelham, Jr., and qualified on that day. He held the office until his death in July, 1789.

The subject of this sketch was a son of Griffin Stith, who for several years was the clerk of Northampton county, Virginia, and who was a grandson of Colonel Drury Stith, the first clerk of Brunswick county, Griffin Stith being a son of Drury Stith, who was a burgess from Brunswick in 1748. He left a number of descendants, among them a son, Judge Griffin Stith, of Southampton county, Virginia, who died a member of the general court of Virginia at an early age in 1817, and Judge Drury A. Hinton, a member of the present supreme court of appeals of Virginia, who is a great-grandson.

The next and tenth clerk of Brunswick county was John Jones, who was appointed clerk by the justices, qualified on the 27th day of July, 1789, and held the office until his death in January, 1793.

The successor of John Jones was Charles Binns Jones, a son, who was appointed and qualified as clerk on the 28th day of January, 1793, and held the office until his death in October, 1797.

The next and twelfth clerk of the court was Herbert

Hill, who was appointed and qualified as clerk October 23, 1797, and held the office until his death in December, 1816.

The successor of Herbert Hill was Robert Turnbull, who was elected by the justices, qualified as clerk on the 23d day of December, 1816, and held the office until his death on the 17th day of December, 1839.

The subject of this sketch was a son of Robert Turnbull, who came to this country from Scotland before the Revolutionary war, and who was a large importing merchant, the name of the firm of which he was a member being Dundass and Turnbull. The younger Robert Turnbull was born at White Hill, Prince George county, Virginia, about three miles from Petersburg, on the 21st of December, 1778. He graduated with distinction at Harvard College, Massachusetts, and afterwards practiced law. On the 24th of December, 1801, he married Elizabeth Jones Stith, who was a descendant of Colonel Drury Stith, the first clerk of the county. Soon after marrying the young couple removed to the county of Brunswick. At the time of his election to the clerkship of the county court of Brunswick, he had been the clerk of the old district court. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turnbull raised a large family of children, three of whom are now living. Mrs. Turnbull lived to an advanced age, and died in the year 1871. Mr. Turnbull was greatly respected by the people of the county. He was the friend and confidential adviser of a large number of its citizens. At his death resolutions of respect to his memory were passed and spread upon the records of the court, and it is said that his old classmates at Harvard planted a tree at the college in commemoration of him.

The next and fourteenth clerk of Brunswick was Charles Turnbull, the third son of Robert Turnbull, his immediate predecessor. He was elected clerk by the justices on the 27th day of January, 1840, with the understanding that his brother, Edward R. Turnbull, who was then under age, but had been deputy for his father, Robert Turnbull, deceased, should discharge the duties of the office. On the 27th of February, 1843, just before the said E. R. Turnbull became of age, Charles Turnbull resigned as clerk in order that said E. R. Turnbull might be a candidate for the office.

Charles Turnbull was born in the county of Brunswick, Virginia, on the 5th day of April, 1806, and was one of the most popular men that ever lived in the county. He was a life-long democrat in politics, and soon after he became twenty-one years of age he was elected as a delegate to represent the county in the General Assembly of Virginia, in which body he served for several years. During this period he defeated some of the most prominent men in the county. It is said of him that he gave notice that he would represent the county as long as he had opposition, and that, as soon as his political opponents found there was no chance to defeat him, they ceased to put up a candidate, and he then declined to be a candidate himself. He was sheriff of the county for a number of years, and was never defeated for any office he asked at the hands of the people. He died in the year 1874. His only son, Robert B. Turnbull, is now (1888) sheriff of the county.

The next and fifteenth clerk of Brunswick was Edward Randolph Turnbull, who was unanimously elected clerk by the justices on the 24th day of April, 1843, and was clerk of the circuit and county courts

continuously until he was removed by the military authorities of the State on the 5th day of May, 1869, when F. M. Kimball, an army officer and head of the Freedman's Bureau, was appointed clerk. Under an arrangement made with the military appointee, he qualified as deputy clerk, the understanding being that he was to have entire charge and control of the office, and that Kimball, the military appointee, was not to come into the office except on other business—an arrangement satisfactory to both parties and to the public, and which was observed in good faith until Mr. Turnbull, on the 25th of April, 1870, receiving his appointment from Hon. Robert M. Mallory, judge of the county court, under "the enabling act" of March 5th, 1870, was restored to his old office. In the fall of 1870, at the first general election held under the new constitution, he defeated the nominee of the republican party by two hundred and fifty votes, although the republican majority in the county at that time was over a thousand. It would be invidious to draw comparisons among gentlemen where all have been "clean in their office," but one may be pardoned for saying of Brunswick's late clerk, that he was "*primus inter pares.*" To his excellent qualifications he added a courtesy and urbanity of manner and evenness of temper which rarely, if ever, forsook him amid the most exacting calls to duty, and which made him a great favorite with the public. So thoroughly equipped was he for the position of a clerk, both by natural aptitude and thorough training under the eye of a master, he performed his duties with an easy gracefulness, as if the very genius of the place had enabled him to "snatch a grace beyond the reach of art."

In addition to being an accomplished clerk, he was a lawyer also, of fine business qualifications, and enjoyed for a short period quite an extensive practice, particularly in the United States court in bankruptcy cases.

At a public meeting held in the court-house on the 25th day of May, 1885, the following resolutions, presented by Colonel Edward Dromgoole, were adopted as a tribute to his memory:

"Brunswick County Court, May Term, 1885.

"Whereas, since the last term of the court death has removed from our midst E. R. Turnbull, late clerk of this court, a position which he filled with ability, diligence and fidelity for more than forty years; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the court and the members of the bar and citizens generally fully appreciated his eminent usefulness as an accomplished clerk, his great worth as a private citizen and his exemplary bearing in the social sphere of life, and, while bowing in humble resignation to the Divine will, are most seriously and impressively affected by his death. His thorough acquaintance with the duties of his office, acquired under excellent early training and matured by his own personal experience, supplemented by a courtesy which was uniform and attentive, made him an officer of rare worth, of great usefulness and extensive popularity.

"*Resolved*, That we tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathies, with the assurance that we shall ever retain in our memories most kindly recollections of his many admirable qualities and most excellent traits of character.

"*Resolved*, That these resolutions be presented to the court for insertion among its records, and that a copy

thereof, attested by the seal of the court, be transmitted to the family of the deceased."

Several members of the bar spoke tenderly and feelingly of the merits of the deceased—among them Colonel E. Dromgoole, who, opening his remarks by saying that perhaps the best tribute he could pay his departed friend, the late clerk, would be simply reading of the resolutions which he had prepared in honor of his memory, said, however, that the personal relations which for nearly forty years had existed between the deceased and himself, without a single incident to weaken their strength or break their uniformity, justified him in adding a few more words. Colonel Dromgoole then, in eloquent and fitting terms, eulogized his deceased friend.

The present incumbent of the office of the county court of Brunswick is Robert Turnbull, the oldest son of E. R. Turnbull, the last mentioned clerk. On the 9th day of May, 1885, he was appointed clerk by the judge of the county court to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of his father, and was elected by the people at the general election held in May, 1887, for the term of six yers. After the year 1880, when it was ascertained that there were over fifteen thousand inhabitants in the county, the offices were divided, and in 1881, a separate clerk was elected for the circuit court.

Robert Turnbull was born in Lawrenceville, Brunswick county, Virginia, on the 11th day of January, 1850. He was deputy clerk for his father for a number of years. He entered the University of Virginia in 1870 as a student of law, and took the degree of Bachelor of Law in one session. He soon afterwards

commenced the practice of law in his own and the adjoining counties, and, at the time of his appointment as clerk, was doing a large practice, which he still retains, his holding the office not interfering with his practice as a lawyer in the adjoining counties or in the circuit court of his own county. At the county elections in May, 1887, a great effort was made to defeat him, upon the ground that he was a democrat, and because the Turnbull family had held the office for so long a time. The republicans made a regular nomination for the office, and the canvass was the most exciting ever had in the county. Notwithstanding the fact that the republican majority in the county is at least five hundred Mr. Turnbull defeated the republican candidate by five hundred and five votes. It is thought that his popularity and influence greatly contributed to the defeat of the republican candidates for treasurer, sheriff and circuit court clerk.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERKS.

Edward Randolph Turnbull, Jr., was elected the first clerk of the circuit court of the county of Brunswick in May, 1881, held the office for one term, and declined to again become a candidate for the office. He became a candidate for the office at the request of his father, E. R. Turnbull, who was prior to that time clerk of both courts. The holding of public positions, however, was not suited to his taste, and in 1883 he entered the University of Virginia as a student of medicine, and took the degree of M. D. in one session. He afterwards pursued his studies in New York, and is now a practicing physician, with every prospect of success.

His successor in office is CHARLES EDWARD MAY, who was elected clerk of the circuit court of Brunswick in May, 1887, defeating his republican opponent by four hundred majority, and now holds the office. He is a grandson of the late David May, who for many years was a prominent lawyer and highly esteemed citizen of Petersburg, Virginia, and is a son of Major John P. May, of the Twelfth Virginia infantry, Confederate States army, who was killed at the second battle of Manassas, August 30, 1862. For several years prior to his election he had been deputy clerk of the county and circuit courts of the county.

G. S. B.

BUCHANAN COUNTY.

Buchanan was formed in 1858, from parts of Tazewell and Russell. The clerks have been (of both courts):

1. Jas. H. Gillespie, from 1858 to 1863, - 5 years.
2. Geo. W. Hogy (vacancy of two years), from 1865 to 1869, - - - - - - 4 years.
3. Joseph Hibbitts, from 1869 to 1870, - 1 year.
4. Geo. W. Sanders, from 1870 to 1875, - 5 years.
5. John S. Ratliff, from 1875 to 1881, - - 6 years.
6. Joseph Hibbitts, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY.

Buckingham was formed in 1761 from Albemarle. The clerks have been:

1. Colonel ——— Bell, from 1761 to 1770, 9 years.
2. Rolfe Eldridge, Sr., from 1770 to 1806, - 36 years.
3. Rolfe Eldridge, Jr., from 1806 to 1858, - 52 years.
4. Robert K. Irving, from 1858 to 1866, - 8 years.
5. Bryce M. Pratt (military appointee), from 1866 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
6. Peter A. Forbes, from 1870 to 1887, - 17 years. Re-elected in 1887 for six years.

SKETCH OF ROLFE ELDRIDGE.

BY WILLIAM M. CABELL.

The county of Buckingham was formed in the year 1761. The first clerk of the county was Colonel —— Bell. Tradition represents him to have been a man of fine character, good attainments, and an excellent clerk. He lived until about the year 1770. He left an honored name and descendants who are worthy of him. He was succeeded in the clerkship by Robert Eldridge, Sr., who at the time of his appointment was writing in the chancery clerk's office at Williamsburg. He located at a place about eight miles east of the court-house and established the clerk's office at his home, which he called "Subpœna," and there all the business of the clerkship was done, except what appertained to the session of the courts. On court days, the necessary records and court papers were carried from "Subpœna" to the court-house. They were not very cumbrous then, and

were readily borne on horseback by Mr. Eldridge's body-servant, called "Mars." The court-house was a wooden structure, standing in a field west of the present village, and not a vestige of it now remains.

Rolfe Eldridge, Jr., the subject of this brief and imperfect sketch, entered the office of his father in the year 1795, at the early age of fifteen, and qualified as deputy clerk in 1797, and remained in the office as deputy until about the year 1808, when the advancing years of Rolfe Eldridge, Sr., caused him to surrender the clerkship. Rolfe Eldridge, Jr., was appointed his successor, and he at once moved very near the court-house, so as to be convenient to the courts, the business of which was then rapidly increasing. He soon thereafter married Miss Mary Moseley and established himself at his home about a mile from the court-house, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred in the spring of 1861.

At the time Rolfe Eldridge became clerk, the tenure of office was during good behavior. The old clerks took pride in their offices; they made it a specialty, and became very perfect in the discharge of their duties. Mr. Eldridge was the contemporary and peer of Samuel M. Garland and Robert Tinsley of Amherst, Spotswood Garland and Robert C. Cutler of Nelson, Alexander and Ira Garrett of Albemarle, Blake Woodson of Cumberland, Branch J. Worsham of Prince Edward, Winslow Robinson of Charlotte, and Henry F. Bocock of Appomattox. The counties contiguous to Buckingham are alone mentioned. The State was filled with just such clerks, who held duty to be the sublimest word of our language, and who made a life-work of their offices.

In 1825 a large and imposing, though inconvenient, court-house was built on the public square in Maysville, the county seat. It was planned by Mr. Jefferson and modeled after some Greek temple. This building, with all the records, was destroyed by fire about midnight the 26th of February, 1869, and the life-work of Colonel Bell, Rolfe Eldridge, Sr., and Rolfe Eldridge, Jr., passed away. There was not a paper left to bear witness to their skill and fidelity for one hundred years.

Rolfe Eldridge, Jr., was clerk of both courts, under Judges William Daniel, Sr., Daniel A. Wilson, Sr., and William Leigh. He prepared all the most important entries himself. He possessed a wonderful facility in fashioning orders to meet special cases under new laws. He had a form-book prepared by himself to meet all ordinary cases, and as far as it went was as perfect as the form-book of Conway Robinson, Esq. He invariably presided at the clerk's table in court; he supervised the preparation of all the orders in the office, read them himself, standing, in court, and during the sessions of the courts, though living only a mile from the court-house, he boarded at the hotel opposite the court-house, and gave his personal attention to every detail of his office. He was systematic and painstaking; he rarely mislaid a paper—he never lost one. He had received only the common education of the country, but was a man of capital sense, great independence and integrity, an excellent statute lawyer, an accomplished draftsman, and he aided the people in the preparation of many of their papers, and advised with them generally about their affairs; and though taciturn, and in some respects peculiar, he wielded great influence in his county; and when in

1852 the old clerks had to pass in review before the electors, though he had opposition, he received all the votes on a full poll except thirty-four.* He declined re-election in 1858, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, Robert K. Irving, Esq., who filled the office most acceptably until Virginia became "Military District No. 1." Then the old clerks were ordered out, and strangers filled the places of those whom we loved and admired.

Rolfe Eldridge possessed a handsome private estate, the profit whereof and the large income from his office was devoted to the unostentatious support of his family and to acts of liberality and charity. During his manhood of sixty years, almost continuously some widow or orphan found under his roof sheltering and protecting care. "He did good by stealth, and blushed to find it fame." He was all his life an earnest member of the Presbyterian Church (old school). He cared nothing for general society, but was devoted to his family, his church, his friends, his duties. He read and studied much of theology, metaphysics and history. He was never known to read but one novel, and that was the "Prairie Bird," the scene of which was laid in the "wild West," and painted Indian life. This little book afforded him intense gratification; it brought before him traditions of "his kin." He was descended from John Rolfe and Pocahontas. He was an especial admirer of plain but sterling worth. John Marshall

*His own comment on this almost unanimous election by the people was, that while it was highly gratifying as a testimony of the estimate in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, he preferred the *smaller constituency of a court of justices*. Spotswood Garland, the old clerk of Nelson county, used often to quote this as a wise speech of Mr. Eldridge. And so it was.—F. J.

was to him the highest type of manhood, and with his own hand he hung a wood-cut of this great jurist in his sitting-room, so that it was the first object which greeted the eye. It remained where he had placed it until many years after his death. He was very fond of conversing of theology, the Bible and its truths, but of his personal experience as a Christian he spoke but little. When he retired from all business, and the sands of life ran low, he often uttered words of thankfulness and adoration to the God who had so greatly blessed him. He died at the age of eighty-one, leaving a widow and eight children surviving him. His end was painless and peaceful, and he passed away like the "fleeting shadow of the summer cloud" on the mountain side.

The writer of this brief sketch qualified to practice law in the county of Buckingham on the 5th of April, 1846; it was the first day of the circuit court; the docket was very large and the cases important; Judge Daniel A. Wilson was presiding. The oaths of an attorney were administered by Rolfe Eldridge, who stood at the desk. In turning to the bar, the eye rested upon Sterling Claiborne, of Nelson; John Thompson, Jr., and Joseph K. Irving, of Amherst; Charles L. Mosby and James Garland, of Lynchburg; Thomas S. Bocock, of Appomattox; Samuel C. Anderson, Wm. Cabell Flournoy, Stephen O. Southall and John T. Thornton, of Prince Edward; Willis Wilson, Henry P. Irving, T. Montague Isbell and Francis D. Irving, of Cumberland; George W. Randolph and John B. Minor, of Albemarle; Willis P. Bocock, George H. Matthews, Joseph Fuqua, John W. Haskins, Benjamin J. Darneille, Henry Spencer and Samuel J. Booker,

of Buckingham. Of this splendid aggregation of mind and manhood, only three remain, to-wit: Thomas S. Bocock, John B. Minor and Francis D. Irving. All the rest have crossed

"That river whose narrow tide
The known and unknown worlds divide."

Rolfe Eldridge Jr.

CAMPBELL COUNTY.

Campbell was formed in 1784 from Bedford. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Robert Alexander, from 1784 to 1819, - 35 years.
2. John Alexander, from 1819 to 1838, - 19 years.
3. William A. Clement, from 1838 to 1845, 7 years,
4. George Wm. Dabney, from 1845 to 1859, 14 years.
5. John D. Alexander, from 1859 to 1865, 6 years,
6. William A Clement, from 1865 to 1868, 3 years.

☞ Military appointee from 1868 to 1871.

7. Robert W. Withers, from 1871 to 1887, 16 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Robert Alexander, from 1809 to 1819, - 10 years.
2. John Alexander, from 1819 to 1838, - 19 years.
3. John D. Alexander, from 1838 to 1868, 30 years.
4. Robert A. Clement, from 1871 to 1886, 15 years.
5. W. K. Alexander, app'd *pro tem.* to 1887, 1 year.
6. W. E. Reid, elected May, 1887, for six years.

☞ It will be seen that the *Alexander* family, through father, son and grandson, held the office of clerk for nearly a hundred years, and they were all reputed to be fine clerks, as were their successors, the *Clements:* also, George Wm. Dabney, who was the son of Chiswell Dabney, of Lynchburg, one of the most elegant and accomplished gentlemen of his day, and his son equally so. He made an admirable clerk, keeping the papers of his office in the most perfect order, and his handwriting was remarkably fine.

Robert Alexander, the first clerk, was the deputy of James Steptoe, the old clerk of Bedford, from about the year 1772, to 1784, when Campbell county was formed, and Robert Alexander became the first clerk. The *Richmond Standard*, a weekly newspaper, which had a brief but brilliant existence of about four years, published in the paper of September 11th, 1880, an article from Mr. R. A. Brock, the well-known and accomplished secretary of the Historical Society of Virginia, and Alexander Brown, Esq., of Norwood, Nelson county, Virginia, (who are the highest authorities upon everything connected with the old families of Virginia and their ancestry), entitled "Archibald Alexander, of Scotland, and his Descendants in Ireland and America," from which article and the notes appended thereto, we learn that *Robert* Alexander, father of *Robert*, who was the first clerk of Campbell county, emigrated from Pennsylvania (where he had been engaged in teaching a classical school) to Augusta county, Virginia, about the year 1747, and there enjoyed a high reputation as the first classical teacher in that section of the country. His oldest son (William) married Agnes Ann Reid, of whom it is said, in a *note*, "nine

children (among them Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D.) were born of this marriage, all of whom lived to a very old age, retaining their faculties in full vigor to the last, and were beautiful examples of a happy and cheerful old age. They all connected themselves in early life with the Presbyterian church, and were remarkable for their devoted piety. A very large num- of their descendants are also members of the same church, thus verifying the promise to Abraham, 'I will be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.' They were remarkable for their strength of character candor, sincerity, generosity, hospitality, social, affectionate dispositions, and for their unsuspicious, confiding natures. Among the descendants, and those with whom they intermarried, there are no less than twenty Presbyterian ministers."

Robert, the clerk of Campbell, married a Miss Austin, of Bedford county, and his sister, Esther, married Captain Austin, of Bedford, who was a brother, or cousin, of Robert's wife.

CAROLINE COUNTY.

Caroline was formed in 1727 from Essex, King and Queen and King William.

The destruction by fire of the early records of Caroline has rendered it impossible to furnish a perfectly accurate account of the periods of service of the clerks

before the year 1814. The following is believed to be approximately correct:

1. Benjamin Robinson, from 1726 to 1763, 37 years.
2. Joseph Robinson, (son of Benjamin), from 1763 to 1780, - - - - - - - - - 17 years.
3. William Nelson, from 1780 to 1799, - - 19 years.
4. John Pendleton, from 1799 to 1814, - 15 years.
5. John S. Pendleton, (son of John), from 1814 to 1845, - - - - - - - - - 31 years.
6. Robert Hudgin, (having been deputy of J. S. Pendleton from 1827), was clerk of the circuit court from 1831 to 1845, 14 years.
7. George W. Marshall, from 1845 to 1863, (county court), - - - - - - - - - 18 years.
8. George Keith Taylor, from 1845 to 1863, (circuit court), - - - - - - - - - 18 years.
9. Robert Hudgin, from 1863 to 1887, (county court), - - - - - - - - - - - - 24 years. Making thirty-eight years in the two courts, besides nineteen years deputy, making fifty-seven years in all. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.
10. Thomas W. Valentine, (circuit court), from 1870 to 1887, - - - - - - - 17 years. He also was re-elected in May, 1887 for six years.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT HUDGIN.

In the year 1817 my mother placed me in the office of John T. Ford, the skillful and accomplished clerk of the old Fredericksburg district chancery court, to remain until I was twenty-one years old. I was then fifteen. I served out the time faithfully, and remained in Mr. Ford's employment until his death

and then in the employment of his successor, the venerable Isaac H. Williams, until I came to Caroline in 1827. There were complaints that the office business of Caroline county was badly managed, and, at the instance of several leading lawyers of the Fredericksburg bar who had a large practice in Caroline, I came to see Mr. John S. Pendleton, the clerk, who had entrusted the office business to deputies and they had neglected it; hence the complaint. I had no difficulty in arranging matters satisfactorily with Mr. Pendleton, he agreeing to give me the sole management and control of the offices for a term of years, and I entered at once on the work assiduously, and soon put in order and rearranged all the old books and papers; and so satisfactorily was it done, that within a year the justices, sitting in court, voted a resolution of thanks to me for it. In 1831 I was appointed by Judge John Tayloe Lomax clerk of the circuit court, but I continued to act as the deputy of Mr. Pendleton, and to conduct and manage generally the business of the county court until 1845, when I resigned both offices, and commenced to practice the law. In 1860 I moved to Fauquier county, to take charge of the Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, which I had purchased. I remained there until 1863, when my entire property (valuable buildings and valuable personalty) was destroyed by the Northern armies, and from sheer destitution I was compelled to return to my old home in Caroline county. Shortly after my return the clerks of both courts (George K. Taylor, clerk of the circuit court, now clerk of the court of appeals at Richmond, and George W. Marshall, clerk of the county court) resigned their offices, and I was appointed in their stead; and have held them ever

since, I believe with satisfaction to the community. As some evidence of this, I may be excused the egotism, that at the last election of county officers, in a voting population of upwards of three thousand, I received every vote except *three*, and have good reason to know that two of these were scratched by mistake. I am now eighty-four and a-half years old; have been blessed through this long life with general good health; am able to walk to and from the office, half a mile from my house, and to discharge its varied duties; and can confidently say that, in this long period of discharge of official duties, no one has ever been injured by any act "committed" or "omitted" by me.

[Signed], ROBERT HUDGIN.

February 4, 1887.

Addenda to the Foregoing.

Mr. John T. Ford was, when appointed clerk of the old chancery court, clerk of the courts of Stafford county. He was a thorough clerk, of more than ordinary intelligence, and a sound lawyer. He had fine conversational powers, and his office was the daily resort of very many men who afterwards became distinguished, such as Robert C. Stanard, John W. Green, John T. Lomax, Philip Harrison and the like, who were kindred spirits, and much to the advantage of the junior clerks in the office, who could but listen to and be improved by the constant discussions incident to such meetings. W. T. Phillips was then Mr. Ford's first deputy; A. W. Morton second. He was a good and well-informed clerk; afterwards became clerk of Fauquier county; then clerk of the supreme court of the United States, and

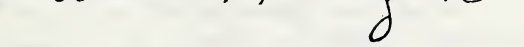
finally second assistant postmaster-general, and died whilst holding this latter position.

A. W. Morton succeeded to the chancery clerkship on the death of Mr. Williams. He held it until the court was abolished; then removed to Richmond, and was, for several years, chamberlain of the city.

I mention these matters to show of what material this old chancery office was formed. On the separation of the clerkships of Caroline county by law, Thomas W. Valentine, then my deputy, was appointed clerk of the circuit court, a position he now worthily holds.

R. H.

Accompanying the above, which was sent to me by Hon. John L. Marye, is the following note from himself: "Having known Mr. Robert Hudgin intimately for forty years, and practiced law in the courts of Caroline for this period, I am able to state that he has been universally esteemed and admired by the bench, the bar and citizens having intercourse with him for his official fidelity and skill, and for his high character."



☞ The following is an interesting historical paper, showing as it does that one hundred and fifty years ago the sons of many of the best families in Virginia were placed in clerks' offices as a good preparatory school, where they were trained for usefulness in the highest departments of life. The Edmund Pendleton herein mentioned afterwards became president of the court of appeals.

In Caroline county court the following entry is made on the 14th day of March, 1735:

"It is ordered and considered by the court that Edmond Pendleton, son of Henry Pendleton, dec'd, be bound (and is hereby bound) unto Benjamin Robinson, clerk of this court, to serve him the full end and term of six years and six months as an apprentice, to be brought up in the said office; which time the said apprentice his said master faithfully shall serve, according to the usages and customs of apprentices. In consideration whereof the said Benjamin Robinson doth agree that he will use the utmost of his endeavors to instruct his said apprentice in all things belonging to a clerk's office, and that he will provide for him sufficient meat, drink, apparell prefitting for an apprentice during ye s'd time."

ROBERT HUDGIN.

The following from the Caroline *Sentinel* will be read with interest by many of our older citizens:

"Mr. Hudgin was the owner of Fauquier White Sulphur Springs at the time of the burning of the hotel by the Federal troops, by which act of vandalism he was almost financially ruined. In a recent issue of the *Free Lance* the following complimentary notice was given of our popular and faithful county clerk, Mr. Robert Hudgin:

'One of the most interesting features of that county is Mr. Robert Hudgin, its clerk. Mr. Hudgin is in the eighty-sixth year of his age, his mind as bright as sun rays without a cloud, his physical powers so active, so healthy, that they amount to a remarkable phenomena. It is with much pleasure to those who take an interest in the working of a court to see with

what agility and perfect familiarity this old gentleman meets his duties and discharges them. Mr. Hudgin was born and raised to manhood in this city. As a clerk of courts he served his apprenticeship in the old district court of this city, under the tutorship of Mr. John T. Ford, who was then clerk of that court. From here he moved to Caroline, where he was elevated to the position of clerk of courts in 1827, which position he has filled, or had continuous control of, to the present time, with but little or no opposition. In 1883, with no opposition, he received the full vote of his county—3,000 votes. At the last election for the position, with opposition, Mr. Hudgin received 1,300 majority.'"

CARROLL COUNTY.

Carroll was formed from Grayson in 1844. The clerks have been.

Of the County Court.

1. William Lindsey, from 1844 to 1849, - 5 years.
2. F. L. Hale, from 1849 to 1852, three years, and from 1858 to 1864, six years, - 9 years.
3. Esau Worrell, from 1852 to 1858, - - 6 years.
4. Wm. H. Sutherland, from 1864 to 1887, 23 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Madison D. Carter, from 1844 to 1849, - 5 years.
2. William Lindsey, from 1849 to 1864, - 15 years.
3. Wm. H. Sutherland, from 1864 to 1887, 23 years.

With the exception of one year (1869–70), when the office was held by a military appointee, whose name is not given. He was re-elected in May, 1887.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

Charlotte was formed in 1765 from Lunenburg. It has been the residence of three distinguished Virginians, viz.: Patrick Henry, John Randolph, and the late Judge Paul Carrington, Sr. Red Hill, the seat of Patrick Henry, is on the southwest angle of the county. There lived and died the man who Mr. Jefferson said "was the greatest orator that ever lived," and to whom John Randolph (rather irreverently) applied the words of Sacred Writ, "Never man spake as this man."

The clerks of Charlotte have been few, and confined to only three families, but they have been noted for their skill, intelligence and usefulness as clerks.

1. Thomas Read, from 1765 to 1817, - - 52 years.
2. Winslow Robinson, 1817 to 1863, - - 46 years.
3. William A. Smith, from 1863 to 1869, - 6 years.
4. Henry A. Carrington, from 1870 to 1885, 15 years.
5. John C. Carrington, from 1885 to 1887, 2 years.
   Re-elected without opposition in May, 1887, for a term of six years.

Clerk of Circuit Court.

1. William Smith, from 1881 to 1887, - - 6 years.
   Re-elected, without opposition, for a term of six years from 1st July, 1887.

Winslow Robinson, the son of John and Obedience Robinson, of the county of Charlotte, was born in October, 1799. His father was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In February, 1814, Winslow Robinson was placed under Thomas Read, the clerk of

the county, with whom he continued till the death of that distinguished man in 1817. In Mr. Read's office young Robinson received a thorough training at the hands of an accomplished officer, who was at the same time one of the leading characters of the Revolutionary period. The fine natural abilities of the young man were thus developed under the most favorable circumstances. When his honored chief died, the people recognized that his deputy was his fitting successor. But a difficulty in the way was his youth. He lacked more than two years of his majority, and he could not qualify before attaining it. The county Court found a way, however, by which this difficulty was surmounted. They appointed his father clerk, with the understanding that the son would perform all the duties of the office. The appointment was made at the April term, 1817. Within a year the father died, and a friend, William L. Morton, offered to take his place with the same conditions. He was appointed April, 1818. At the November term, 1819, Winslow Robinson having become of age, Mr. Morton retired, and the young man was appointed clerk of the courts. From that time he held the office continuously, either by appointment or election, until after an attack of paralysis in 1863 he tendered his resignation. He died in October, 1863.

No county was ever blessed with a more agreeable, accomplished, or faithful officer, than was the county of Charlotte during the more than forty-five years that he served it. During that period the county court was held by justices who had no superiors in a State whose chief ornament was her magistracy. The orders are signed by such men as Reps Osborne, Clement Car-

rington, H. A. Watkins, Joseph Wyatt, A. D. Alexander, John D. Richardson, William M. Watkins, William B. Green, Henry Carrington and James P. Marshall, as presiding justices. The circuit court was held by Fleming Saunders, Thomas T. Bouldin, William Leigh and H. H. Marshall. Mr. Robinson's skill and faithfulness as an officer and his remarkable intelligence as a man soon gained for him the confidence of the accomplished men who presided over the several courts, and he became their trusted adviser. The people of the county also learned to look to him as a safe counsellor, and many were the questions settled by him as a friend, which would otherwise have resulted in bitter litigation. His long and intimate contact with courts and his keen powers of observation and discrimination made him a sound legal adviser, and he was so recognized in and out of the legal profession.

Mr. Robinson had a most amiable disposition, with fine powers of conversation, and was thus a charming companion. He was, for many years before his death, a member of the Presbyterian church. His features greatly resembled the striking face of his distinguished kinsman, the great jurist, Conway Robinson. There was a peculiar brightness of the eye and kindliness of expression about him which at once attracted and interested every one he met. He married Miss Pernette Elizabeth Womack, of Prince Edward county, and left five children—Miss M. Cordelia, who died unmarried; Nannie E., wife of H. W. Bengurt; Louisa, wife of William A Smith; Bettie, wife of George E. Dennis, and Robert H. Only Mrs. Dennis, of Rocky Mount, Franklin county, survives.

Upon the death of Mr. Robinson, the county court

of Charlotte entered on its record the following well-merited testimonial of their regard:

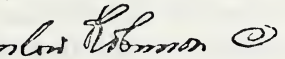
"In Charlotte County Court, December 8th, 1863:

"Whereas, it has pleased God in his providence to remove from us by death Winslow Robinson, late clerk of this court: therefore, be it

Resolved, That this county has lost a valuable and beloved citizen and this court an accomplished and faithful officer. Called to the responsible position of clerk of the courts of this county before he had arrived at the age of twenty-one years, Mr. Robinson performed the duties of his office for more than forty-five years, with an integrity and capacity rarely found, even among the clerks of Virginia. Uniting with fine business capacity and large experience, a pleasant temper and agreeable manner, he won and enjoyed not only the confidence and esteem but the affection of his associates, and his loss will not only be severely felt by his bereaved family but by this court and by the county.

Resolved, That this court do sympathize with the widow and family of the deceased in their bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be communicated by the clerk of this court to the family of the deceased, and that a copy be also published in one of the newspapers published in the city of Richmond; and as a further testimony of their respect to the deceased, it is ordered that the court be now adjourned."



SKETCH OF COLONEL THOMAS READ.

Thomas Read, the first clerk of Charlotte, and the second son of Colonel Clement Read, who was clerk of Lunenburg county from 1744 to 1765, was born at Bushy Forest, then within the county of Lunenburg, between the years 1735 and 1740. Charlotte was set off from Lunenburg in 1765, and Colonel Thomas Read became its first clerk, farming the office from his principal, who did not reside in the county, until 1770, when Read became the principal, holding it with the approbation and commendation of all until 1817, when he died. He was the county lieutenant during the war of the Revolution; marched with the county levy to Petersburg, and again to oppose Cornwallis on the Dan. He was the senior member of the Charlotte delegations to the Virginia conventions of 1774, 1775 and 1776, and in the convention of 1788 he opposed the adoption of the Federal constitution. Mr. Hugh Blair Grigsby, in his "Discourse on the Virginia Convention of 1776," thus speaks of him: "He was equally distinguished by the fervor of his patriotism, by the strictest integrity, and by the highest sense of personal honor. He wrote an excellent hand, was thoroughly skilled in finance, and carried such system into his private affairs that he could have turned, at a moment's notice, to a paper half a century old. Inheriting the papers of his father, the old clerk of Lunenburg, he could have gone back nearly a century. Though not a lawyer by profession, he was well versed in the statute law; and rather by the process of small profits and strict economy than by sudden speculation, he accumulated a large estate. Though courteous and

affable and noted for the disinterested and valuable services to all who needed them, he was slow in forming friendships, but these, when once formed, were indissoluble. His friendship for Mr. Madison no difficulty, no disaster, no evil tongue could sunder or impair. He was a man of a pure life, and of honesty that became proverbial, and for nearly two generations was the confidential adviser of the people, who knew that neither interest nor passion could sway his opinion. His stature approached six feet, and his frame was large in proportion. His head was broad and full; his eyes were blue; his nose Roman; his chin round and firmly set. He wore his hair powdered, and retained the queue which he had worn that day when, on a report that Cornwallis was crossing the Dan, he marched with the levy *en masse* of the county of Charlotte to oppose his progress. His dress was always neat, and even elegant; and in society he was the model of an accomplished gentleman." He was educated at Williamsburg, began life as a surveyor, (as Washington and Jefferson had done before him), and married a Miss Nash, whom, with his daughter, an only child, he survived, having filled the measure of a long and useful life.

By Wm. W. Read.

William A. Smith, who was the successor of Mr. Robinson as clerk of the circuit and county courts of Charlotte, was the son of Captain William Smith, and was born at Charlotte courthouse, November 18, 1823. He entered the clerk's office in November, 1836, when but thirteen years of age. Here, under the careful and methodical training of Mr. Winslow Robinson, he laid the foundation of those patient and industrious habits

which have distinguished him in subsequent life. He continued as an assistant to Mr. Robinson until November, 1839. Three years later, in 1842, he became the acting sheriff of the county, which position he filled for seven years.

In 1861, Mr. Smith was again called to discharge the duties of clerk, Mr. Robinson, whose daughter he had married, having been disabled by paralysis. Mr. Smith was elected to the office of clerk in April, 1863, on the resignation of Mr. Robinson. In addition to his duties as clerk during the war, Mr. Smith acted as treasurer of the county, clerk of the military and exemption board, and commissioner for the supply of the families of soldiers with provisions. In all these varied and at times laborious positions, Mr. Smith acquitted himself with honor and to the great satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. At the close of the war, there was a large increase in the business of the courts, and the labors of the clerk became correspondingly arduous. Mr. Smith proved himself to be fully equal to the emergency, and so systematized and arranged all the work of the two offices of the circuit and county courts as to meet all the increased demands.

Mr. Smith continued in the office of clerk until January, 1871. His administration was marked by an order and precision for which his training under his father-in-law had eminently fitted him, and his own administrative tact and ability enabled him to realize. The evidences of his skill and arrangement are still manifest in every department of the offices over which he presided. After the lapse of so many years he is still a sort of encyclopedia as to papers connected with the offices and the history of estates and local affairs, which

often proves of most valuable service to those who have occasion to consult records or have business with the courts.

On the accession of his successor, in 1871, Mr. Smith entered upon the practice of law in connection with Judge Hunter H. Marshall and Judge Wood Bouldin. On the election of Judge Marshall to the circuit bench and the elevation of Judge Bouldin to the court of appeals, Mr. Smith formed a partnership with Wood Bouldin, Jr., a connection which still continues.

Colonel Henry A. Carrington was elected clerk of the circuit and county courts of the county of Charlotte in the year 1870. He was three times re-elected, filling the joint position until the division of the offices in 1881, and continuing to fill the office of county clerk until the time of his death in 1885.

He was born at "Ingleside," in Charlotte county, the estate of his father, September 13th, 1832. He was the youngest son of Henry and Louisa E. Carrington. His mother was a daughter of Hon. William H. Cabell, who was governor of Virginia from 1805 to 1808. He was afterwards a judge of what was known as "the general court"—now circuit court—and subsequently, for nearly forty years, president of the Virginia court of appeals. His father, Henry Carrington, was the fourth son of Judge Paul Carrington, Sr., who was a member of the Revolutionary committee of safety, and also subsequently a distinguished member of the Virginia court of appeals.

Born of so distinguished parentage, the subject of this notice was early characterized by habits of probity, elevated sentiments, and that sound judgment which

distinguished him in after life, and which enabled him to fill every position in which he was placed with marked ability and success. At the age of sixteen he entered the Virginia Military Institute, where he took high rank for his orderly deportment, close application and marked proficiency in his studies. At the expiration of three years he graduated with honor, ranking fourth in a class of twenty-six. The following year he entered the law school of the University of Virginia, designing to engage in the practice of that profession in a Western city. This intention, however, was interrupted by providential circumstances, particularly by the death of his eldest brother, William Cabell Carrington, who was eleven years his senior. In compliance with the earnest desire of his parents, to whom he was greatly devoted, and who were deeply afflicted by the bereavement they had experienced, he resolved to relinquish the law and devote himself to agricultural pursuits, receiving a patrimonial estate known as "Retirement," within a mile of his father's residence. Here he settled, having, at the age of twenty-three, married the second daughter of Dr. John Cullen, who was at that time professor in the Medical College at Richmond. After his marriage he continued in the cultivation of his estate and the enjoyment of the pleasures of rural, social and domestic life, until the alarms of war aroused his patriotism in April, 1861. He was among the first to offer his services in defence of his native State and what he believed to be the principles of constitutional liberty. The Charlotte Rifles, a company in his regiment, was the first to enlist from this county. He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Eighteenth Virginia regiment of infantry, and,

bidding adieu to family and home, he hastened with his associates in arms to the tented field.

Of the Eighteenth Virginia regiment it may well be said it was distinguished for its noble gallantry and honorable service throughout the war. Of Colonel Carrington it can be most truthfully said he shrank from no duty, and he feared no danger where duty called. He was in twenty-nine pitched battles, and was in active service during the whole four years of the war, with the exception of a term of eight months imprisonment at Johnson's Island, having been captured at the famous battle of Gettysburg. The Eighteenth Virginia regiment occupied a prominent position in the celebrated charge, and it was while Colonel Carrington was endeavoring to rally his soldiers who had gained the heights, waving the regimental colors, which he had taken from the hands of the standard-bearer, who had fallen in the fight, that he was recognized and taken. He was also engaged in both battles of Manassas, and for his gallantry and daring in different engagements he was several times mentioned by his superior officers and recommended for promotion. He served as colonel of the regiment for eighteen months during the illness and disability of Colonel Withers.

Colonel Carrington was three times wounded, only once very seriously, when he received a wound in the shoulder at the battle of Seven Pines, near Richmond, on the 3d of June, 1862. During his imprisonment at Johnson's Island, he contracted the disease which ultimately proved the cause of his death. As a commanding officer he was greatly endeared to all his associates and the members of his command. The deserved promotion was finally conferred upon him, and before

the close of the war he received his commission as colonel on the resignation of Colonel Withers. He was again taken prisoner just before the surrender, and was, in company with others, being conveyed to prison. On reaching Sailor's creek, and in the confusion occasioned by the passage of the military wagons, he was able to procure the disguise of a Federal uniform, and passing through the lines unobserved, he made good his escape, and finally reached his home in safety. He now applied himself once more to agricultural pursuits, but the neglect of his estate, losses occasioned by the war, and the emancipation of his slaves, led him to resolve to resume the study and practice of the law, and he was soon after admitted as a member of the Charlotte bar. In 1870, he was elected clerk of the circuit and county courts, the two offices being then united. To the discharge of the duties of this position he was able to bring not only all the native grace and force of his character, but a degree of legal information and skill which eminently fitted him for the position, and was of great service to the county. He was a good disciplinarian, methodical and exact in the discharge of his duties, and conscientious in all his dealings. In person, Colonel Carrington possessed the advantages of a noble and graceful figure, a genial yet commanding presence, a soldierly bearing without ostentation, and all the manners of a most accomplished and polished gentleman. His language was chaste and refined, and while he was courteous, social and agreeable, he was at the same time correct and dignified. He accepted the arbitrament of arms with all a soldier's courage and fortitude. During the days of reconstruction he served as a member of the Freedmen's

Bureau, securing the confidence of all his fellow-citizens. In politics he was of the old whig school, devoted to his State, a true patriot and sound conservative. Added to all, Colonel Carrington displayed the true grace of a Christian character. The vows he assumed on the eve of his departure for the battle-field he sacredly kept. In his final sickness he was sustained by the consolations of Christian faith, and he died January 22d, 1885, in the hope of a blessed immortality. His memory is gratefully cherished by his fellow-citizens.

His son, John Cullin Carrington, was appointed to fill the unexpired term as clerk of the county, and in the spring of 1887 he was unanimously elected to the position for the ensuing term of six years. Trained under the care and direction of his father, for whom he served for some years as deputy, the present incumbent bids fair to sustain the excellent qualities of his predecessors in office. Possessing many of the business qualifications of his lamented father, his administration of the duties of his position, no less than his courtesy and gentlemanly bearing, has secured for him the universal respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

WILLIAM SMITH, CLERK CIRCUIT COURT.

After the census of 1880, it was found that the county of Charlotte was entitled to a clerk for the circuit as well as county court, and in 1881 the offices were divided. William Smith was elected clerk of the circuit court in May, 1881. He is the son of William A. and Louisa Smith, his mother being the daughter of Winslow Robinson, who was clerk of Charlotte county for about forty years. He first entered the office of the county and circuit clerk in 1867 as deputy

for his father, at that time clerk. In 1872 he acted as deputy for Colonel H. A. Carrington. In 1873 he was appointed a commissioner in chancery for the circuit and county courts, a position which he still continues to hold. In January, 1874, he farmed the sheriffalty from R. J. Gaulding, and was the acting sheriff of the county for the period of two years. As already stated, on the establishment of the office of circuit clerk as distinct from the county clerk, Mr. Smith was elected to the position, and after serving with acceptance for the term of six years, in 1887 he was re-elected without opposition for another term. Descended as he is from a line of distinguished clerks, with a protracted and varied experience in the duties of the position, his administration has been marked with all the elements of most distinguished success. Methodical and careful in his habits, Mr. Smith has been able to bring to the discharge of his duties a system, order and neatness which display themselves in the arrangement and preservation of papers, and in all the clerical work of the office, at once most helpful to the business of the court and advantageous to the public. His administration has won commendation alike from the court, the bar and the people.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY.

Charles City county was one of the eight shires (or counties) into which the colony of Virginia was first divided in 1634. Its *clerks* have been as follows, so

far as they can be ascertained from the old records, many of which have been so mutilated or imperfectly preserved as to make an accurate list of names and dates impossible. The oldest order book in the office commences in 1735 and ends in 1755. From this book (which was carried off by the federal troops during the late war and returned after the war) we learn that the clerks have been:

1. Lewellen Eppes, from 1739 to 1759, - - 20 years.
2. James Eppes, from 1759 to 1770, - - 11 years.
3. Mordecai Debnam, from 1770 to 1790, - 20 years.
   ☞ He issued marriage license to Thomas Jefferson, who married in this county Miss Emma Wailes.
4. Otway Byrd, (a descendant of Colonel Wm. Byrd, of Westover,) from 1790 to 1797, - - - - - - - - - - - 7 years.
5. Robert Munford, from 1797 to 1800, - 3 years.
6. Wyatt Walker, from 1800 to 1817, - - 17 years.
7. Robert W. Christian, from 1817 to 1846, 29 years.
8. Edmund T. Christian, (father of Judge George L. Christian, of Richmond), from 1846 to 1856, - - - - - - 10 years.
9. Edmund Waddill, from 1856 to 1887, - 31 years. Re-elected in May, 1887.

☞ See sketch below, with likeness and autograph.

Edmund Thomas Christian, who, on the death of his brother, Robert Walker Christian in 1846, succeeded to the clerkship of Charles City circuit and county courts, was the eighth son of Turner Christian by his third wife, who was Elizabeth C. Dancy, and was born at "Balfours," the residence of his father, on James river, in Charles City, on the 21st of June, 1814.

That the mantle of Robert Walker could not have fallen on the shoulders of a more worthy successor than those of Edmund Thomas, we believe would be the verdict of the people of Charles City of every class and condition. These two brothers, whilst unlike in some respects, were much alike in their tastes and acquirements, and had many other traits of character that were common to both, and all that has been said of the high character, positive nature and unswerving fidelity in the discharge of private and public duties of Robert Walker, is equally true of Edmund Thomas. Indeed, we never knew a man who had a higher sense of the duties and responsibilities of life, whether those pertaining to his Maker or his fellow-man, than did Edmund Thomas Christian, and he was truly, in some respects, an extraordinary man. He was a man of great industry, perseverance and will, and rarely, if ever, undertook anything that he did not succeed at. His father gave him the means of acquiring a good education, which he duly improved, and, with a good natural mind, and his fondness for reading, fitted himself for any vocation in life to which his tastes might incline him. He commenced life in 1836, by embarking in the mercantile business in Mobile, Alabama, and, being fond of horseback riding, traveled in that way from Charles City to Mobile. In this venture he suc-

ceeded remarkably well, and doubtless but for the fact that he had left his sweetheart behind, and was devoted to Virginia and his people, would have spent the rest of his life in Mobile. These attachments were so strong that we find him, on the 1st of May, 1838, again mounting his steed and setting out for his home; and he arrived in Richmond on the 5th day of June, having again made the trip on horseback. We have before us a diary kept by him of his return trip. It is exceedingly entertaining, showing the route traveled to be almost the same as that of the nearest railway now from Richmond to Mobile over the Norfolk and Western route. But the trip which it then took *thirty-six days* to make can be easily made now in much less than that number of *hours*.

In a few months after his return to Virginia, Mr. Christian was married to Tabitha R., the daughter of Edmund V. Graves, of Charles City, a brother of Colonel Richard Graves, a famous man of his day, who, for years, represented New Kent and Charles City in the general assembly, and these were descendants of Captain Thomas Graves, who was a representative in the first colonial legislative body which assembled at Jamestown, in Virginia, in 1619. Mr. Christian could not have chosen a more fitting or congenial companion through life than he did—one who was admired and loved by all who knew her, and who was known throughout her county not only for her hospitality and her charities, but for all those qualities which make the true and devoted Christian wife and mother. She survived until May, 1864, when the news of the wounding of one of her sons in the army, and the burning and destruction of her home by the federal army, caused her death.

On the death of Mr. Christian's father, he became the owner of his old homestead, "Balfours," where he resided as a farmer, from the time of his marriage until the first part of January, 1846. He then removed to Charles City courthouse, went in the clerk's office as deputy for his brother, Robert Walker, and succeeded him as clerk, as before stated, on the latter's death in the month of March following.

Soon after being made clerk, he purchased an estate called "Edge Hill," adjoining "Sherwood Forest," the residence of ex-President Tyler. Mr. Tyler's first wife was a Christian, and the ties between the two families, which were close in the lives of the ancestors, are kept up by their descendants to this day.

Mr. Christian was an "old line" whig in politics. He was also a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, a very influential denomination in his section in his day, and we cannot better illustrate his party faith and earnest Christian character than by inserting a letter (the original of which is now before us) written to his wife on the last day of the year 1853:

"Saturday Night, December 31st, 1853.

"*My Dear T.:*

"From the date of this you will see that the year 1853 has nearly drawn to a close. Soon, very soon, will another year commence, together with its troubles and difficulties. So goes the world, bringing with every day its troubles and sorrows. Now, what I wish to draw the attention of my dear wife to is this: that when the new year shall begin, we also may begin, as it were, anew our lives, and be determined, by the grace and mercy of God, to live nearer to the foot of

the Cross, letting our light shine as Christians wherever we go, and placing, as it were, a bridle on our tongues, that we may neither distress nor wound the feelings of any person with whom we have to do. My dear T., we have great cause to be thankful, for with all our unworthiness, the Lord has been exceedingly kind to us. We have, like other people, had much of trouble to contend with, yet for all this we can never for one moment of our lives remember when it was that we felt the need of a friend. But the friendship of this world is enmity to God (so says the Good Book), and we this night can rejoice together and say that we have chosen Him for our friend who has promised never to leave nor forsake us. Blessed promise; it makes my poor soul glad, and I could lay down my pen with pleasure to join with you in praising my Master for it. Let us be determined then to live nearer to Jesus and to be more consistent Christians. Yes, let us promise each other this: that we will give ourselves, and all that we have, entirely to the Lord, and devote it to His service. We must soon pass away, and I hope we may be enabled, by the grace of God assisting us, to welcome rather than dread the hour of our departure. I have thought for a long time that it would be pleasant to me to leave this world of trouble. In this, however, I may be mistaken; nor do I feel that I want to leave it because of any extra trouble I have, but I feel as if I wanted to *see* my Saviour. I cannot think of His great love for me but that my heart runs out after Him, and I feel as if I want to be in His presence. But a question might be asked just here: Would I be willing to leave my wife and children to go to a world unknown—they must necessarily miss me much? Well,

this is rather a hard question. But who can be in truth a Christian who is afraid to trust God? *I have full confidence in His promises.* He has promised me this: He says, "Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive, and let thy widows trust in me." But, my dear T., I will not write any more, but conclude by saying the Lord has promised to prepare a place for all those who diligently continue in His service and love Him. Let it, then, be our constant wish to please Him, and only Him, that we may meet where parting is no more.

"Yours devotedly, EDM'D."

The strain of sadness running through this letter was doubtless caused by the death of his little four-year-old daughter, Betsy, the year before, and which seems to have saddened the rest of his life; for we find a piece of his fragmentary manuscript, written, apparently, not long before his death, containing a perfect wail of mourning for this child, and thus among other expressions of his grief: "O, Betsy, Betsy, Betsy! I do want to see thee more and more each day of my life. Can I stay from thee? Yes, God has decreed it thus, but I will think of thee. It is a something that encourages me to press on to the land of glory, for there I know my Betsy dwells." * * * * *

Mr. Christian had eight children, the eldest of which was sixteen years and the youngest five weeks old at the time of his death. Their names were as follows: Edmund Turner, George Llewellyn, Richard Langhorne, John Douglas, Margaret Ann, Elizabeth Armistead, Robert Seymour, and Benjamin Thomas. Edmund and Richard are still living in Charles City,

George in Richmond, John in Baltimore and Robert in Norfolk. Margaret, Elizabeth and Benjamin are dead.

The old county court of magistrates was the most representative body of men who ever assembled in the counties of Virginia, and we give an extract from the resolutions adopted by the county court of Charles City as the best evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Christian was held, as an officer and man, at the time of his death:

"Whereas, this court has heard with unfeigned sorrow of the death of Edmund T. Christian, its clerk, who has been cut down in the noon-tide of his career of usefulness and honor, who, in his private and official character, was beloved and respected by all who knew him: therefore, it is

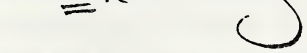
"*Resolved*, 1st. That this court is painfully sensible of the great loss it has sustained in the death of the deceased; that his devotion to his official duties, and his firmness and efficiency in the discharge of them, had won for him its highest esteem and most implicit confidence.

"*Resolved*, 2d. That the court recognizes in his death a public calamity second only to that which his beloved widow and orphaned babes have been called upon to bear.

"*Resolved*, 3d. That it deeply sympathizes with the family of the deceased in their affliction, and would point them for consolation to the inheritances he has left them, of a name unsullied, and a memory which shall live in the hearts of his fellow-citizens till they cease to beat in unison with virtue and truth."

* * * * * *

Mr. Christian died on the 6th day of March, 1856, and the foregoing were adopted by the county court of Charles City at the March term of the court of that year. They express the sentiments of all who knew him. His death was from pneumonia, which he contracted by falling through an air-hole whilst skating, of which exercise he was very fond, and in which he was very accomplished. His remains are buried by the side of those of his widow and little Betsy, in the family graveyard at "Edge Hill."



Robert Walker Christian, who was clerk of the circuit and county courts of Charles City county from 1817 to 1846, was the eldest son of Turner Christian by his first marriage with Sarah Walker. He was born at "Kimmages," on the James river, just above "Westover," in Charles City, on the 13th day of December, 1783. His father was a descendant of that family of Great Britain universally styled by British chroniclers "the ancient family" of Ewanrigg Hall in Cumberland, and Millntown and Ronaldsway in the Isle of Man. During the troublous times of Cromwell several members of this family came over to this country and settled in Virginia, and we find from the records of the Virginia land office, in Richmond, that as early as the year 1657, one of them, named Thomas Christian, obtained a grant for land in James City county, then the very heart of the colony, and that between the years 1657 and 1764, numerous tracts, containing several thousand acres, were granted to different members

of this same family in the counties of Charles City, Henrico, Goochland, Albemarle and Augusta. One of these tracts in Charles City county, which was granted to Thomas Christian in 1657, has been owned and occupied by members of the same family ever since, and is now owned and occupied by Captain Thomas L. Christian (a nephew of Robert Walker Christian, and as gallant a confederate soldier as any in the army) and Louisa Christian, his wife, who was also a Christian, and a lineal descendant of the original grantee.

In 1809 Robert Walker Christian removed to Richmond, and commenced his clerical training in the clerk's office of Henrico county court, under J. B. Whitlocke, the then clerk, and we find that he qualified as the deputy clerk of Henrico county court in December of that year. He remained in that office until the latter part of 1811, when he left and went back to his native county, Charles City, and took charge of the clerk's office there as deputy for Wyatt Walker, the then clerk, succeeding his cousin, Edmund Christian, afterwards United States marshal for the district of Virginia. In 1817 he was made the clerk of Charles City circuit and county courts, and continued so until his death, which occurred on the 1st day of March, 1846.

No courts ever had a more faithful or efficient clerk than did those of Charles City under the administration of Mr. Christian. He was indeed as good a type of the old Virginia gentleman and old Virginia clerk as could be found, and was known as such by the representative clerks of that grand old body of men all over Eastern Virginia. The Robinsons, Howards and Elletts of Richmond, the Winstons of Hanover, and the Pollards of King William and King and Queen, were his

intimate and devoted friends. The first edition of Mr. John Robinson's Form Book was published during the intimacy existing between himself and Mr. Christian, and we think it may be reasonably inferred that they, at least, conferred together about many of the forms incorporated in that most useful work.

Mr. Christian was a man of excellent natural endowments, and his mind had been cultivated by education and reading. He was very fond of the British poets and essayists, but especially so of Burns, from whose works it is said he could quote almost by the page. He was also a most practical business man, which, with his natural gifts and acquirements, made him one of the safest counsellors, in the ordinary affairs of life, that could be found in his section. Indeed, we have heard that his advice on questions of law was frequently sought, and followed, in preference to that of leading members of the bar of Charles City, even when that bar contained the names of such men as John B. Clopton, John B. Christian, John Tyler, James D. Halyburton, John M. Gregory, Robert G. Scott, George W. Southall, John A. Meredith, Thomas H. Willcox, Richmond T. Lacy, John P. Pierce, and others less known to fame, but very good lawyers. He was known to be a man of the highest character, and on this account, and because of his practical sense and business training, was made the representative of the largest estates in his county. Both as an officer and citizen he commanded the esteem, confidence and respect of all who knew him or came in contact with him. Possessed of ample fortune, at his home, "Greenway" (the birthplace of President Tyler), about a half a mile above Charles City courthouse, he dispensed a hospitality

second to none in Tidewater Virginia, famous the world over for this trait of its people. During the sessions of the circuit court, the judge and the non-resident members of the bar were his guests, and nothing afforded them more pleasure in after years than to tell of the princely, but unaffected and unpretentious, manner in which they were entertained by the "old *clark*," as he was generally called by them; of the pleasant occasions spent under his roof, and to relate anecdotes of his well-known house-servants, Frank and Henry Jasper. Mr. Christian, like the most of his family, was an "old line" whig in politics. He was also a member of the Episcopal Church, which he attended regularly, at old Westover church, ordering Frank or Henry to bring him his "espiscopalians" for the occasion, as he always termed his Sunday suit. He was a man of strong will and convictions, a *positive* character in every way, one who would have gone to the stake before swerving one iota from what he believed to be the path of rectitude and duty, and was faithful and true in every relation of life. He married Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, (formerly Miss Irby), the widow of John Jones, of North Carolina, who, by her first husband, had two children, one of whom married Mary, a daughter of President Tyler, during the latter's administration. Mrs. Jones had, at the time of her marriage to Mr. Christian, a considerable dowry, and this, when added to what Mr. Christian had accumulated and inherited from his father, made him one of the wealthy men of his county. By this marriage Mr. Christian left the following children, viz.: Virginia C., Robert Walker, Augustus, Richard, Elizabeth, Philip and Mary. Virginia married Colonel James M. Will-

cox, who for several terms represented Charles City and New Kent in the general assembly of Virginia. He was also for many years the presiding justice of Charles City, and was a man of high character, of excellent sense and judgment, and a most useful and worthy citizen in every way. He died in 1878, leaving his widow, four sons and a daughter, all of whom are still living.

Robert Walker, Jr., Augustus and Philip Christian attained to manhood, but died without ever having married; Richard married Martha Turner Batte, of Prince George county, a most estimable and accomplished lady, but by whom he had no child, and they are both now dead. Elizabeth married her cousin, Dr. Edmund O. Christian, by whom she has seven or eight children, all living now in West Virginia. Mary has never married, and lives with her widowed sister, Mrs. Willcox, at "Buckland," on the James river, the once beautiful residence of the late Colonel Willcox.

One of Mr. Christian's sisters, Susan Brown Christian, married Major Thomas Doswell, the famous turfman of "Bulefield," Hanover county, and these were the parents of the present Major Thomas W. Doswell, of the same place, and who is so well and favorably known, not only on account of his celebrated horses, but for every quality that go to make up the true man and high-minded, estimable Virginia gentleman. Another sister married Tyler Hardiman, (a nephew of Governor Tyler, the father of President Tyler), who moved to Louisiana, and has several descendants in that State, some of whom were distinguished as soldiers in the confederate army.

None of Mr. Christian's sons seemed to possess his

taste or talents for the clerk's office. But, whilst this is so, few men have had so many of his name to follow him in the same line of business; and we know of no family in Virginia which has had as many representatives on the bench, at the bar and in the clerk's office as his. One of his brothers, Edmund Thomas Christian, succeeded him as clerk of the courts of Charles City; another, John D. Christian, was, for more than thirty years, clerk of the courts of New Kent county; another, Turner Christian, was clerk of the courts of the city of Williamsburg; another, James D. Christian, was, for many years, clerk of the circuit court of Hanover, and another, Benjamin Christian, was deputy clerk of the courts of Charles City—thus presenting the remarkable case (we believe unparalleled) of six brothers five of whom were clerks and one a deputy clerk of the courts in Virginia. Indeed, the Christian family has been termed by some one the "court family," and, as illustrating its right to this distinction, we will give the names of those who are now known to have been either in the clerk's office, on the bench or at the bar of the Virginia courts, as follows, viz.: Bat. D. Christian, a son of John D. Christian, succeeded his father as clerk of the courts of New Kent county, and continued such until his death; his son, Douglas Christian, who is just grown, is now deputy clerk for his brother-in-law, John N. Harris, the clerk of the same courts, and we are informed that this office has virtually been in the same family for nearly a century; James S. Christian, another son of John D. Christian, was at one time a deputy in the same office, and afterwards was deputy of the courts of Hanover and King William counties.

George L. Christian, a son of Edmund Thomas Christian, was at one time deputy clerk of the circuit court of the city of Richmond. He then studied law at the University of Virginia, and was admitted to the Richmond bar. Soon after this he was made clerk of the supreme court of appeals of Virginia, which office he held for about seven years, and resigned it to accept that of judge of the hustings court of the city of Richmond. He and his relative and law partner, Frank W. Christian (who is a great nephew of Richard Jeffries, for many years clerk of the district court of the United States for the district of Virginia,) were the founders of the *Virginia Law Journal*, edited it for several years, and are now members of the Richmond bar. John D. Christian, Jr., the fourth son of Edmund T. Christian, was at one time deputy in the clerk's office of Charles City, and afterwards in the circuit court of the city of Richmond. He is now in the mercantile business in Baltimore. Benjamin T. Christian, the youngest son of Edmund T. Christian, was at one time deputy clerk of the supreme court of appeals of Virginia, and afterwards of the hustings court of the city of Richmond. He then studied law at the University of Virginia and Richmond College, was admitted to the Richmond bar, and became associate editor of the *Virginia Law Journal* with James Christian Lamb, the present editor, but died of consumption in about six months after coming to the bar. He was a most exemplary young man, and highly esteemed by all who knew him. Walter Christian, a son of Judge Joseph Christian, late of the supreme court of appeals, succeeded Benjamin T. as deputy clerk of the hustings court of Richmond, and still continues in that office;

and Richard A. Christian, a cousin of his, was at one time deputy clerk of the circuit court of Richmond.

Several members of the Christian family were judges (or deemsters or dempsters as they were there called) in different parts of Great Baitain, and seem to have filled the positions with great satisfaction to their countrymen; for we read in the rude lines of the song written and sung on the murder of deemster William Christian, the "fair haired William of Ronaldsway," in the Isle of Man—and which was as common in that little domain as the ballad of "Chevy Chase" was in its wider sphere—of

"Talents so great,"

* * * * * * * *

"Your justice applauded by the young and the old."

* * * * * * * *

"From grief all corroding, to hope I'll repair,
That a branch of the Christians will soon grace the chair."

* * * * * * * *

And so several members of the same family in Virginia have performed in the new the same parts which were played in the drama of life by their great ancestors in the old world, and, so far as we know, the Christians who have been judges in Virginia have filled those positions with equal satisfaction to their countrymen here as did those in Great Britain. The following have been judges in Virginia, viz.: Joseph Christian, late judge of the supreme court of appeals of Virginia; John B. Christian, late judge of the circuit and general courts of Virginia; George L. Christian, late judge of the husting court of the city of Richmond, Virginia; Isaac H. Christian, judge of the county courts of New Kent and Charles City counties, Virginia, and Thomas J. Christian, late judge of the county courts of Matthews and Middlesex counties, Virginia.

The following are remembered as being, or having

been, at the Virginia bar, viz.: Joseph Christian, John B. Christian, George L. Christian, Isaac H. Christian, Thomas J. Christian, James H. Christian, Henry A. Christian, Samuel P. Christian, Richard H. Christian, Frank W. Christian, Bolivar Christian, Walter Christian, James S. Christian, Edward D. Christian, Aurelius Christian, John H. Christian, John H. Christian, Jr., Benjamin T. Christian, William S. Christian, David A. Christian, Churchill G. Christian and C. B. Christian. There are doubtless others whose names are not now remembered, who are now, or have been, members of our bar; and there are numerous descendants of this name, but bearing other names, who are, or have been, members of the same, *e. g.*, the Douglases, the Wises, the Minors, the Lambs, the Lacys, the Waddills, the Willcoxes and others.

After this long digression, we return to the subject of our sketch, simply to say that he died, as before stated, on the 1st day of March, 1846, at his home, "Greenway," and was buried in the churchyard at old "Westover," whither his widow and all four of his sons, his sons-in-law, Colonel Willcox and Dr. Christian, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Richard Christian, have all followed him. *Requiescat in pace.*

It would be safe to say that no man who ever lived in Charles City county was more missed and mourned than was Robert Walker Christian, the "*old clark*" of the courts, when he died.

☞ It may be proper to state that *clark* was the pronunciation given universally to the word clerk in former times, as it is in England at the present day. F. J.

R. W. Christian

"At a court of quarterly session, begun and held for Charles City county, at the court-house of said county, on Thursday, the 19th day of March, 1846—

"On the motion of Thomas H. Willcox, Esq., prosecuting attorney in this court, it was ordered that the following minute be entered of record:

"The court have been informed that the death of Robert W. Christian, Esq., late clerk of this court, has occurred since the last term, and sympathizing sincerely with his bereaved family, as with the whole community of his acquaintances, have ordered this notice of their respect for his memory to be spread upon their records, that they may testify through all time to his many private virtues, his strict integrity, honesty, capacity and fidelity in the discharge of all his official duties.

"The deceased performed the duties of clerk of this court for thirty-five years preceding his death, and during this long period of official service so demeaned himself as to secure the full confidence of the court, its officers and bar, and his fellow-citizens generally. He was eminently distinguished by that firm and inflexible disposition to do equal justice to all men which never fails to command the admiration of mankind. His untiring industry in prosecuting his official business, his acknowledged capacity, and his abiding rectitude of purpose, deserve and now receive from the magistrates their most respectful and grateful acknowledgments. Therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the court will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, in token of sorrow for his death and sincere respect for his memory.

"The bar and the officers of the court having expressed their desire to participate in this token of

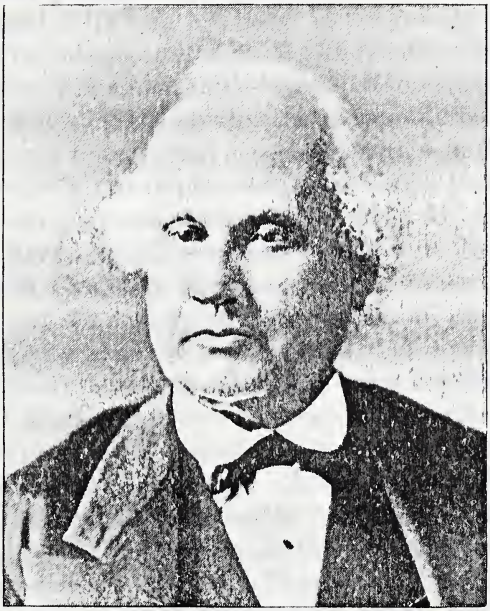
respect, it is ordered to be so stated on the record. And the clerk is directed to deliver to the widow of the deceased a copy of this entry, that she may have the consoling assurance that the deceased occupied a warm place in the affections of his associates, and that his death has occasioned with them the most painful regrets. And the clerk is also directed to furnish copies for publication in all the Richmond papers. And as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, it is ordered that the court be adjourned until the next term.

"A copy—Teste:

"EDMUND WADDILL, Clerk."

EDMUND WADDILL, the present clerk of the circuit and county courts of Charles City county, Virginia, was born in the said county, some six miles west of the courthouse, on the 23d day of May, 1814, and is now in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He was the second son of Edmund Waddill and Mary Maynard. Of his brothers and sisters only one survives—William, who is a resident of said county—his brother Samuel and sister Bettie (who was the third wife and widow of the Rev. James H. Christian) having departed this life during the past year. Edmund, the elder, was a son of Samuel Waddill, who intermarried with Lucy Christian. He departed this life in the year 1785. This Samuel and his brother, Richard, located in the county of Charles City from South Carolina, prior to the war of the Revolution. Richard Waddill left a son, George C., who is a resident of said county, and is now in the eighty-third or eighty-fourth year of his age.

Edmund, the subject of this sketch, received a limited



Edmund Ward

education, only such as was afforded by the common schools of the early part of this century. But a fondness for reading and a retentive memory have, in a large measure, overcome the want of better advantages in early life, and have brought to him a store of knowledge not often possessed by those who have been liberally educated. He left his home in the year 1833, and resided in the city of Richmond three years, where he was employed in a mercantile house. Returning to his native county, he engaged in the mercantile business on his own account, and continued therein in the neighborhood of his birth-place until his election to the clerkship. On the 14th day of April, 1847, he was married to Mary Louisa Redwood, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Christian Redwood. John Redwood was a native of the county of New Kent, and was at one time deputy clerk of the courts of that county. His wife, Elizabeth Graves Christian, was a daughter of Joseph Christian and —— Graves. Joseph Christian was a captain in the war of the Revolution, and a personal friend of LaFayette. After the war he occupied his farm, which he called "Soldier's Rest," in the county of Charles City, on the Chickahominy river, a short distance below the Forge bridges (which on the late war maps is improperly called Jones' bridges). Elizabeth Graves Christian was the sister of the Rev. James H. Christian before mentioned, and of Dr. Allen Christian, who located in the county of Middlesex. Of the marriage of Edmund Waddill and Mary L. Redwood seven children were born—Bettie, who died in 1850; John R., Samuel P., Edmund, Jr., Lucie T., who intermarried with Rev. Lewis B. Betty; Marry Louisa, who intermarried with James H. Chris-

tian, a grandson of the Rev. James H. and son of Judge Isaac H. Christian, and Nannie R.—all of whom are now living.

The union, which in all respects had been a happy one, was terminated by the death of Mrs. Waddill, on the 8th day of April, 1860. She was a woman of earnest convictions and of decided purpose. For many years she had been a member of the Baptist Church, and was an untiring worker in the church and Sunday school. She had the satisfaction of seeing her husband, in the year 1859, unite with the church of which she was a member. Her solicitude for the welfare of her household and neighbors was marked, and truly may it be said of her, she labored for the good of others. Her children were all young, the oldest not having reached his eleventh year, and two, infants of a few days, when she was called upon to commit them to the care of Him who careth for us, and who is the God and Father of us all. How such a character must have yearned for life to look after the wants of those little ones. For his wife Mr. Waddill had the greatest love, and in her judgment the most abiding confidence. She lies buried at Manoah church, in the county of Charles City, by the side of her sister Nannie, who preceded her to the grave a few years. Her two brothers, William H., of Baltimore, and Joseph C. of Henrico county, are still living.

In the spring of 1856, the death of Mr. Edmund T. Christian caused a vacancy in the clerkship of the county. Mr. Christian had held the office for a number of years, and succeeded his brother, Robert Walker. Mr. Waddill became a candidate for the office. He was induced to this step in great measure by his wife,

who desired him to retire from the mercantile business. Apart from a general knowledge of the business derived from being a member of the court of justices, which office he had filled eight years—four under a commission of the governor and four years by election by the people—he had had no especial training for the work, whilst his opponent, Mr. Robert Walker Graves, long since dead, had been commissioner of the revenue, had written in the office under Mr. Christian, and was familiar with the duties of the station. Both men were popular in the proper acceptation of that term, each had warm personal friends, and the office contended for one that the people of that day venerated, and the administration of which they rarely ever changed, when the right man had been found. The contest was between gentlemen, and the canvass was conducted accordingly. The election was an exciting one. Mr. Waddill was elected by a majority of sixty-five votes. One of the polling places was at Mr. Waddill's home. He received every vote cast at the precinct save one, which was cast by a gentleman who attended from a distance. Mr. Waddill attended one of the polling places remote from his home, and on his return at night he found several of his friends on the roadside anxious to hear the result.

He entered immediately upon the discharge of his duties, and has continued to discharge them until the present time. He has recently been elected for another term, and should he live to its expiration, will have served thirty-seven years. His term of service has already exceeded that of any of his predecessors. Since the first election he has never had opposition. He has often been heard to say that in the beginning he en-

countered many difficulties, and that but for the encouragement of his wife would in all probability have resigned. He persevered, however, and by close application soon became familiar with all the duties of the office, which he has discharged intelligently, with great fidelity, and to the satisfaction of the court, bar and people. During his service the circuit court has been presided over by ten judges, namely: John B. Clopton, John M. Gregory, Joseph Christian, George T. Garrison, Robert L. Montague, Benjamin W. Lacy, R. L. Henley, B. T. Gunter, and two military appointees. Clopton, Gregory and Montague are dead. Of the justices composing the county court few, if any, survive, and with them has passed away the distinguishing feature of the institution over which they presided.

Shortly after Mr. Waddill's election he was appointed commissioner in chancery of the two courts. With but few exceptions he has settled all the *ex parte* and contested accounts of fiduciaries. To these settlements few exceptions have been taken, and when taken, his reports have very generally been sustained by the courts.

Four of Mr. Waddill's sons have acted as deputies under him. Several other young men have written under him who now occupy honorable positions in life. Of his sons, John R. has served as sheriff of the county of Charles City. Samuel P., in his twenty-second year, was elected clerk of the circuit and county courts of Henrico, and is now serving his third term as clerk of the county court of said county. Edmund, Jr., who, at the age of eighteen, accepted the deputyship of the courts of Hanover, who afterwards served in that capacity in the circuit courts of Henrico and Richmond, and then commenced the practice of law. In 1880 he

was elected Judge of the county court of Henrico, and resigned that position to accept the office of United States district attorney for the Eastern district of Virginia, and is now engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Richmond. William M., who, at the age of twenty, accepted a situation in the State auditor's office in the city of Richmond, and is now employed in a mercantile house in the city of Shreveport, Louisiana. Charles C. is with his father at this time.

In politics, prior to 1840, Mr. Waddill acted with the whig party. From that time onward he has acted with the democratic party. In 1860 he sided with the Douglas wing of the party, and voted for the Douglas electors. He was strongly opposed to the dismemberment of the Union, and hoped, up to the commencement of hostilities, that war would be averted. When the war began he had passed the military age, and was therefore not engaged in the service. He saw much of the conflict, however, as the Peninsula of Virginia was occupied by one army or the other until the close of the strife. He passed through that "reign of terror" set on foot by one General Wilde, upon the advance of Butler's army up the James river in May, 1864. Perhaps it is well, in justice to the brave men who fought on the federal side, that the disgraceful deeds perpetrated at the command and sufferance of this man have never been recorded. His atrocious acts were done when there was no force to confront him, and his victims were aged men and defenceless women and children. On the 3d day of November, 1864, Mr. Waddill was arrested by the federal forces, as were a number of the older citizens of the county. They were carried to General Butler's headquarters, near Varina, kept

there a while, and then transferred to Fort Hamilton, near Fortress Monroe. No cause was ever assigned for their arrest, and they were subject, in the midst of a severe winter, to the treatment of prisoners of war. Hurriedly taken from their homes, with no change of clothing, their sufferings were intense. It is hardly necessary to state that some of them never returned. Mr. Waddill and his brother, Samuel, were released in the early part of January, 1865.

On the 18th day of June, 1862, Mr. Waddill was married to Miss Annie L. Wight, daughter of John and Margaret C. Wight. She has proven herself a kind and affectionate stepmother and devoted wife. Of this marriage six children survive: William M., Charles C., Margaret V., Emily G., Julia L. and Leonora.

In the county of Charles City there lived a large number of free-born colored people. In the times of slavery these people occupied an embarrassing position, and their need of advice and counsel was frequent. Those who applied to Mr. Waddill, and there were many, found in him a safe counsellor and friend, and as circumstances changed they have shown their appreciation of his friendship.

In 1867, in the days of reconstruction, Mr. Waddill was called upon by the conservative element of the county to become a candidate to represent the county in the convention called to frame a constitution for the State. He did not desire the office, but, under the circumstances, could not decline. It was the first election in Virginia at which the right of suffrage was exercised by the colored people. They supported the nominee of the republican party, and that party having a majority in the county, Mr. Waddill was defeated.

In figure Mr. Waddill corresponds to the well-known descriptions of Stephen A. Douglas. Some year or more ago Mr. Waddill was approached upon the streets of the city of Richmond by an aged colored man, who asked if he was not addressing Mr. Waddill, and when informed that he was, he replied: "Yes, I knew you as soon as I saw you." He then explained that he was the boy who, when Mr. Waddill attended school, carried the teacher's horse home, and returned for him in the afternoon. After the session closed, he had not seen Mr. Waddill until he approached him on the streets of Richmond. Strong must be the outlines of that face and form the impression of which remains after the lapse of sixty years.

And now, in conclusion, what changes have taken place since the commencement of this gentleman's term of service! They need not be recounted here. The years of his long life have been spent within sound of the place of his birth, and his acts and deeds have been open to the criticisms of those among whom that life has been spent, and it can be truthfully said that no man who has ever lived among those people has commanded more of their confidence and respect.

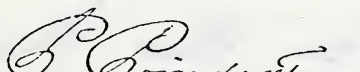
He has been the kind husband, the indulgent and affectionate parent, and good neighbor. He belongs to a class of men so well known in Eastern Virginia. The circumstances which produced such a class of men have passed away. We shall not see their like again. Those who were the contemporaries of his youth and of his maturer years have nearly all been called to their final account, and he stands upon the border-land awaiting the summons.

"*Summam nec metuas diem nec optes.*"

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY.

Chesterfield was formed from Henrico in 1748. Its *clerks* have been :

1. Benjamin Watkins, from 1749 to 1779, 30 years.
2. Thomas Watkins, from 1779 to 1812, - 33 years.
3. Park Poindexter, from 1812 to 1847, - 35 years.
4. Silas Cheatham, from 1847 to 1865, - - 18 years.
5. W. W. Cogbill, (circuit court), from 1847 to 1863, - - - - - - - - - - - 16 years.
   [☞ Killed at the battle of Gettysburg, in the famous charge of Pickett's division.]
6. Nathan H. Cogbill, circuit court from 1863 to 1874; county court from 1865 to 1874, - - - - - - - - - - - 11 years.
7. M. A. Cogbill, (county court), from 1874 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - 13 years.
8. E. H. Flournoy, (circuit court), from 1875 to 1887. - - - - - - - - - - - 12 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887.



CLARKE COUNTY.

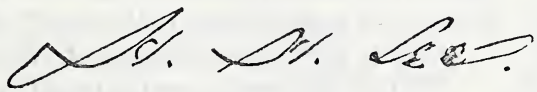
Clarke was formed in 1836 from Frederick. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. John Hay, from 1836 to 1852, - - - 16 years.
2. David H. McGuire, from 1852 to 1864, 12 years.
3. Lewis F. Glass, from 1864 to 1869, - - 5 years.
4. George Glass, from 1869 to 1875, - - 6 years.
5. John M. Gibson, from 1875 to 1887, - 12 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Hugh Holmes Lee, from 1836 to 1852, - 16 years.
   [☞ He was considered a very excellent clerk and commissioner in chancery.]
2. David H. McGuire, from 1852 to 1864, 12 years.
3. Lewis F. Glass, from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.
4. George Glass, from 1869 to 1875, - - 6 years.
5. John M. Gibson, from 1875 to 1887, - 12 years.



CRAIG COUNTY.

Craig was formed in 1850–51 from parts of Botetourt, Roanoke and Giles. The clerks have been:

1. John W. Younger, from 1851 to 1852, - 1 year.
2. Clifton G. Hill, from 1852 to 1864, - - 12 years.
3. J. W. Younger, from 1864 to 1865, - - 1 year.
4. A. J. Farrier, from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.
5. John Goode, (military appointment), from 1869 to 1871, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
6. George C. Caldwell, (military appointment), from 1871 to 1872, - - - - 1 year.
7. J. P. Martin, from 1872 to 1881, - - - 9 years.
8. T. B. McCartney, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years. And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

CULPEPER COUNTY.

Culpeper was formed in 1748 from Orange. The clerks have been:

1. Roger Dixon, from 1749 to 1772, - - 23 years.
2. John Jamieson, from 1772 to 1810, - - 38 years.
3. Wm. Broaddus, from 1810 to 1811 (died), 1 year.
4. William Broaddus, Jr., from 1811 to 1816, 5 years.
5. Thomas W. Lightfoot, from 1816 to 1831, 15 years.
6. F. T. Lightfoot, from 1831 to 1838, - - 7 years.
7. Fayette Mauzy, from 1838 to 1873, - - 35 years.
8. W. M. Mauzy, from 1873 to 1874, - - 1 year.
9. Charles B. Payne, from 1874 to 1887, - 13 years. He was re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Cumberland was formed in 1748 from Goochland. The clerks of this county have been:

1. Cadwallader Jones, from 1748 to 1760, - 12 years.
2. Edmund Nicholas, from 1760 to 1770 - 10 years.
3. Thompson Swann, from 1770 to 1781, - 11 years.
4. Miller Woodson, from 1781 to 1830, - 49 years.
5. Miller Woodson, Jr., from 1830 to 1845, 15 years.
6. Blake B. Woodson, from 1845 to 1881, - 36 years.
   ☞ Except two years of military rule (1869–70), after which he was restored.
7. John A. Booker, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years.

☞ It will be seen that the Woodsons, father, son and grandson, held the office successively for one hundred years, just three generations. They were men of the highest character for intelligence, integrity and skill and usefulness as clerks, but I have not been able to procure a sketch of either of them.

DICKENSON COUNTY.

Dickenson was formed in 1880 from parts of Buchanan, Russell and Wise. There has been but one clerk:

1. Columbus Phipps, from 1880 to 1887, - 7 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞ Dickenson is the last county formed in Virginia.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY.

Dinwiddie was formed in 1752 from Prince George. Owing to the destruction of the records and papers of this office during the late war, the clerk has not been able to furnish me the names and dates of service of former clerks further back than 1823. The following have been the clerks since that time:

1. John Nicholas, from 1823 to 1833, - - 10 years.
2. John P. Crump, from 1833 to 1852, - - 19 years.
3. Charles A. Hargrave, from 1852 to 1864, 12 years.
4. William A. Adams, from 1864 to 1865, 1 year.
5. A. M. Orgain, from 1865 to 1887, - - 22 years.

He was re-elected in May, 1887.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. William H. Mann, from 1864 to 1865, - 1 year.

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY.

Elizabeth City was one of the original shires (or counties) into which Virginia was divided in 1634. The records seem to have been not well kept or preserved until the fourth clerk named below (William Wager) came into the office in 1746. He held the office for the long period of *forty-five* years, and left it in good condition, which has been preserved by his successors. At the breaking out of the war in 1861, the records and papers were taken into the country for preservation, but a great many were lost or destroyed,

and the sequence of all clerical transactions hopelessly broken up. The clerks, so far as can now be ascertained, were as follows:

1. Charles Jennings, from 1714 to 1724, - 10 years,
2. Thomas Neighbours, from 1724 to 1742, 18 years.
3. Thomas Everard, from 1742 to 1746, - 4 years.
4. William Wager, from 1746 to 1791, - - 45 years.
5. Johnson Tabb, from 1791 to 1806, - - 15 years.
6. W. Westwood, from 1806 to 1810, - - 4 years.
7. Westwood S. Armistead, from 1810 to 1848, - - - - - - - - - - - - 38 years.
8. Samuel S. Howard, from 1848 to 1861, 13 years.
9. William S. Howard, from 1865 to 1870, 5 years.
10. L. D. Seymour, (acted by deputy), from 1870 to 1875, - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
11. S. E. Bickford, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.

ESSEX COUNTY.

Essex was formed from a part of *old* Rappahannock in 1692. The records in this, as in all the early shires or counties in Virginia, were very imperfectly kept and preserved. From the best information now attainable we find that the clerks of Essex have been as follows:

1. William Beverly, from 1716 to 1745, - 29 years.
2. John Lee, from 1745 to 1761, - - - - 16 years.
3. John Lee, Jr., from 1761 to 1786, - - 25 years.
4. Hancock Lee (son of John, Jr.), from 1786 to 1793, - - - - - - - - - 7 years.

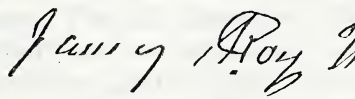
5. John P. Lee (brother of Hancock), from 1793 to 1814, - - - - - - - - - 21 years.
6. Wm. Baynham Matthews, from 1814 to 1830, - - - - - - - - - - - - - 16 years.
7. James Roy Micou, from 1830 to 1887, - 57 years.

☞ This includes two years (from 1869 to 1871) when Mr. Micou was *deputy* of Robert Pringle, who was clerk during the *military regime*, but allowed Mr. Micou all the emoluments of the office, doing no part of the work himself.

The four *Lees* (John, John, Jr., Hancock and John P.), who were successively clerks of Essex from 1745 to 1814 (sixty-nine years), were of the Westmoreland family (perhaps more distinguished than any other family in Virginia), and all of them bore the highest character as clerks and as highly educated gentlemen.

I learn from a private letter from James Roy Micou that he was born on the 16th day of April, 1807. He was first appointed clerk of Essex county by the justices of that court, many of whom were highly educated gentlemen, and all men of the highest character for intelligence. Mr. Robert Beverly, of Blandford, is especially remembered as one of the ablest justices that ever sat on the bench of Essex county court. This first appointment was in 1830, and the office has been held by J. R. Micou continuously from that time to the present (February, 1887), a period of fifty-seven years, through all the different changes made by the constitutions of 1829–30, of 1851–2, and of 1868–9, as to the appointment of clerks by their respective courts, and of election by the people. This is a case without a parallel in the history of Virginia clerks.

That of Robert Hudgin, clerk of Caroline, is next to it, his being the same length of time (fifty-seven years), but interrupted by his retirement from the office for a few years, when he was engaged in the practice of the law. It has been said that there has been a friendly contention for a long time between these two old worthies as to which of them has held their offices the longest. Mr. Micou, at the age of eighty, like his friend from Caroline at the age of eighty-five, is at work in his office every day, and both of them are candidates for re-election. May they both be triumphantly re-elected!



☞ Memorandum made after the election of May 26th, 1887: The annexed slip from a Richmond paper gives the painful information that J. R. Micou, in the late slaughtering of old clerks by the republican party of Virginia, lost his election.

"ELECTION RETURNS—ESSEX COUNTY.

"James Roy Micou, Esq., the present clerk of the county and circuit courts, but who was defeated on Thursday last, has passed his four-score years, and has been the incumbent of the office for fifty-seven years. He is a most genial and affable gentleman, and belongs to the old school. No one could say aught against him as a gentleman or as an officer. With increasing years, his zeal and attention to his office never flagged, and his efficiency, with the aid of a deputy, was equal to what it had been in his palmier days. Much regret is felt by his many friends that in his declining years he should be deprived of an office which he had so long and faithfully filled, and which is his only means of support."

FAIRFAX COUNTY.

Fairfax was formed in 1742 from Prince William, and named after *Lord Fairfax*, the proprietor of the "Northern Neck." ☞ From a note on pages 19–20–21 of the "Dinwiddie Papers," presented, in 1881, by W. W. Corcoran to the Virginia Historical Society, we learn that "Thomas Fairfax, sixth Lord and Baron of Cameron, was the friend and patron of George Washington in his early life; that he was born in 1691, and died at his seat, 'Greenway Court,' Frederick county, Virginia, December 12th, 1781; that he inherited from his mother the vast estates in Virginia, comprising 5,282,000 (*five million, two hundred and eighty-two thousand*) acres of land, lying between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, known as the 'Northern Neck.'" A princely domain!

The clerks of Fairfax have been as follows:

County Court.

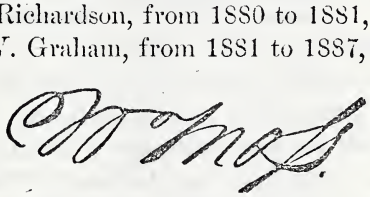
1. Catesby Cooke, from 1742 to 1746, - - 4 years.
2. John Graham, from 1746 to 1752, - - 6 years.
3. Peter Wagoner, from 1752 to 1798, - - 46 years.
4. George Deneale, from 1798 to 1801, - 3 years.
5. William Moss, from 1801 to 1833, - - 32 years.
6. F. D. Richardson, (*pro tem.*), from 1833 to 1835, - - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
7. Thomas Moss, from 1835 to 1839, - - 4 years.
8. Alfred Moss, (*pro tem.*), from October, 1839, to November, 1839, - - - - 1 mo.
9. S. M. Ball, from 1839 to 1852, - - - 13 years.
10. Alfred Moss, from 1852 to 1861, - - - 8 years.

11. H. T. Brook, (military), from 1861 to 1865, 4 years.
12. W. B. Gooding, (military), from 1865 to 1866, - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
13. William M. Fitzhugh, (military), from 1866 to 1867, - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
14. F. D. Richardson, (*pro tem.*), from 1866 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - 3 years.
15. D. F. Dulany, (military), from 1869 to 1870. - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
16. F. D. Richardson, from 1870 to 1880, - 10 years.
17. F. W. Richardson, (*pro tem.*), from 1880 to 1881, - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
18. Frederick W. Richardson, from 1881 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.

☞ Ferdinand Dawson Richardson was born in the year 1800, and entered the clerk's office under William Moss in 1826; was either clerk, deputy clerk or assistant clerk to the date of his death, October 13th, 1880, a period of fifty years. His son, Frederick Wilson Richardson, was born December 16, 1853, and went into the clerk's office when he was eighteen years old (1871); served as deputy and assistant clerk until the death of his father in 1880, when he was elected clerk of the county and circuit courts, and has continued so until the present time (1887).

Circuit Court.

1. William Moss, from 1831 to 1835, - - 4 years.
2. F. D. Richardson, from 1835 to 1880, - 45 years.
   [Except during the war and military reign, when Job Hauxhurst and William L. Edwards filled the office.]
3. F. W. Richardson, from 1880 to 1881, - 1 year.
4. John W. Graham, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years.



GENERAL WASHINGTON'S WILL.

OFFICE CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT,
FAIRFAX C. H., VA., Jan. 21, 1879.

To the Editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

May I presume upon your liberality to make a few remarks through the columns of the *Gazette* in regard to a certain article which recently appeared in the Hartford *Times* in relation to the keeping of General Washington's will, reflecting not only upon the clerk of the court, but upon the historic county of Fairfax, and the mother of States, old Virginia. The article states "that valuable document is now on file in the office of the clerk of the court of Fairfax county, Virginia. It is kept in a glass case, and, from appearances, the writing has almost faded away. Owing to its old age it will not bear handling. The clerk of the court some years ago had it copyrighted, so that now, under the copyright law, he is the only person who has a right

to publish it. In the spring of 1876 this clerk published the will in pamphlet form, and sold a great many copies at the Centennial, and also in other parts of this country." This paragraph is false in almost every particular. 1st. It is not kept in a glass case, but in a Miller safe. 2d. The writing is as bright now as it was the day the venerable President wrote it. 3d. The clerk of the court has *never had it copyrighted*, nor did he sell any copies of it at the Centennial. Some years ago Mr. Andrew Jackson, at that time a resident of this place, made a complete copy of the will and had it certified by the clerk and published as such. He was assisted in this by the Hon. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, D. C., and these are the copies sold at the Centennial. CLERK."

Extract of letter from the present clerk as to General Washington's will:

"When the Union forces took possession of Richmond, they went to the State library, and as old man Lewis, who was secretary of the Commonwealth under the Pierpont government, says, 'scattered the papers all over the floor, and took what they wanted, but overlooked Washington's will.' Mr. Lewis subsequently picked it up, and kept it until after the war, when Mr. O. W. Hewitt was sent by the county court of Fairfax to Richmond after the will, and returned with it, and it has been here ever since." F. W. R.

FAUQUIER COUNTY.

Fauquier was formed in 1759 from Prince William. The clerks of the county court have been:

1. Humphrey Brooke, from 1759 to 1793, 34 years.
2. Francis Brooke, from 1793 to 1805, - - 12 years.
3. Hugh R. Campbell, from 1805 to 1813, 8 years.
4. Daniel Withers, from 1813 to 1821, - - 8 years.
5. John A. W. Smith, from 1821 to 1832, 11 years.
6. William H. Jennings, from August, 1832, to October, 1832, - - - - - - - - 2 mos.
7. A. J. Marshall, from 1832 to 1846, - - 14 years.
8. William H. Jennings, from 1846 to 1859, 13 years.
9. William A. Jennings, from 1859 to 1869, 10 years. When he was succeeded by James Rogers, a military appointee, for one year—say 1st January, 1870, - - - 1 year.
10. T. N. Fletcher, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
11. William M. Hume, from January, 1871, to August, 1872, - - - - - - - - 18 mos.
12. T. N. Fletcher, from 1872 to 1874, - - 2 years.
13. R. H. Downman, from 1874 to 1887, - 13 years. And was re-elected for six years in May, 1887.

[Note.—All of these clerks were natives of Fauquier county except James Rogers, military appointee. The second clerk, Francis Brooke, was afterwards one of the judges of the court of appeals.]

The clerks of the circuit superior courts of law and chancery and of the circuit courts of Fauquier have been:

1. Hugh R. Campbell, from 1809 to 1813, 3 years.
2. Berkely Wood, from 1813 to 1831, - - 18 years.
3. William F. Phillips, from 1831 to 1852, 21 years.

4. John S. Byrn, from 1852 to 1869, - - 17 years.
   When Robert L. Reilly became clerk by military appointment, and held the office until the 6th of April, 1870, when he resigned, and—
5. John S. Byrn was re-appointed, and held the office until July, 1881—which 11 years, added to his first service of 17 years, makes a total of - - - - - 28 years.
6. John R. Turner, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years.
   And was re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

FLOYD COUNTY.

Floyd was formed in 1831 from Montgomery. The clerks have been:

1. William Goodson, from 1831 to 1845, - 14 years.
2. John N. Zentmeyer, from 1845 to 1854, 9 years.
3. James B. Headen, from 1854 to 1858, - 4 years.
4. Wm. B. Shelor, from 1858 to 1864, - - 6 years.
5. Jackson Godby, from 1864 to 1875, - - 11 years.
6. B. P. Elliott, from 1875 to 1887, - - - 12 years.

☞ During the military government, when the iron-clad oath was required, John F. Edwards qualified as clerk of both courts, and continued in office from April, 1869, to July, 1870, but J. Godby did the business of the office as his deputy. J. Godby was under political disabilities after July, 1870, for several years, and at one time William Campbell was appointed clerk of both courts, and B. P. Hylton at another time, but J. Godby discharged the duties of the offices.

FLUVANNA COUNTY.

Fluvanna was formed in 1777 from Albemarle. The clerks have been:

1. John Cobbs, from 1777 to 1783, - - - 6 years.
2. John Timberlake, from 1783 to 1831, - 48 years.
3. Abram Shepherd, Jr., from 1831 to 1869, when he was removed by military authority, and John A. Hughes appointed, who held the office for a year, but did not discharge any of its duties, A. Shepherd discharging them, and in 1870 A. Shepherd was re-elected and held the office until 1875, making a total of - - - - - - - - - - - 44 years.
4. William Sclater, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Franklin was formed in 1784 from Bedford and Henry. The clerks of the county court have been:

1. Stephen Smith, from 1784 to 1791, - - 7 years.
2. James Callaway, from 1791 to 1813, - 22 years.
3. Caleb Tate, from 1813 to 1838, - - - 25 years.
4. Moses G. Carper, from 1838 to 1852, - 24 years.
5. Robert A. Scott, from 1852 to 1871, - 19 years.
6. James J. Carper, from 1871 to 1887, - 16 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

District and Circuit Courts.

1. James Steptoe, from 1789 to 1797, for district composed of Bedford, Franklin, Campbell, Pittsylvania and Henry counties, - - - - - - - - - - - 8 years.
2. Ben Rice, *pro tem.* from 1797 to 1800, - 3 years.
3. Caleb Tate from 1797 to 1805, in place of James Steptoe, resigned, - - - 5 years.
4. Same, circuit superior court of law and chancery, from 1809 to 1845, - - - 36 years.
5. Moses G. Carper, from 1845 to 1858, - 7 years.
6. Henry E. Carper, from 1858 to 1862, - 4 years.
7. N. C. Carper, from 1862 to 1863, - - 1 year.
8. James E. Greer, from 1863 to 1864, - - 1 year.
9. G. H. T. Greer, from 1864 to 1887, - - 23 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞ A long line of excellent clerks, all of whom had been well trained as deputies in their respective offices.

FREDERICK COUNTY.

Frederick was formed from Orange in 1738. Its clerks have been:

1. James Wood, from 1743 to 1760, - - 17 years.
2. A. Wagere, from 1760 to 1762, - - - 2 years.
3. James Keith, from 1762 to 1824, - - - 62 years.
4. Thomas Allen Tidball, from 1824 to 1856, 32 years.
5. Thomas Allen Tidball Reiley, from 1856 to 1858, - - - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
6. J. P. Reiley, Sr., from 1858 to 1859, - 1 year.
7. J. C. Reiley, from 1859 to 1865, - - - 6 years.
8. C. W. Gibbon, from 1865 to 1870, - - 5 years.
9. J. H. Sherrard, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
10. J. P. Reiley, Jr., 1871 to 1887, - - - 16 years.
11. J. A. Nulton, elected in May, 1887, for six years.

Frederick county, Virginia, was laid off from the county of Orange in the year 1738, but the commission appointing Morgan Morgan and twelve other justices of the peace was not issued until October 2d, 1743, and the first court for the county was held in Stephensburg on the 11th day of November, 1743. At this court James Wood produced his commission as clerk of the county (which was issued by Wm. Good, Esq., lieutenant-governor of Virginia), and qualified as such. James Wood held the office of clerk until 1760, when A. Wagere was appointed clerk and James Wood his deputy. The court was then adjourned from Stephensburg to the court-house in Winchester, where it has ever since been held. A. Wagere does not seem to have held the office of clerk for any length of time,

for James Keith, of Alexandria, appears as clerk in the deed-book of 1st of June, 1762. He held the office (with Thomas Allen Tidball as deputy from 1804) until some time in 1824. After the death of James Keith, in 1824, Thomas Allen Tidball was appointed clerk, and, when the office was made elective by the people, he was elected to the office without opposition, and held it until the time of his death.

A desire to know the *personnel* of the subject of a sketch is natural. We therefore introduce the reader to Thomas Allen Tidball as a man about medium height, with florid complexion, acqueline nose, blue eyes and sandy hair of the true Hibernian type. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 14th of January, 1786; his parents were of Scotch-Irish descent, (his mother was of the family of Scotts, of Pennsylvania). The father of Thomas Allen Tidball was a merchant in the city of Philadelphia, but moved to Winchester, Virginia, when his son, Thomas, was about four years old. The wife of the subject of this sketch was Susan Hill, a daughter of Rev. William Hill, D. D., of Winchester, Virginia, to whom he was married on the 18th of November, 1813. They had three children, Joseph, Scott and Bettie, of whom Bettie alone is living.

Mr. Tidball's life was moral in the highest acceptation of the term, and of such exemplary character as to draw from the public meeting after his death this encomium: "* * * that his character had long been the standard of excellence and worth and a pattern to his religious friends * * *." He connected himself with the Presbyterian Church February 1st, 1852, and was elected and ordained a ruling elder in Loudon Street church of Winchester, Virginia, on the

14th of January, 1855. In 1804, in the nineteenth year of his age, he became deputy clerk of the county of Frederick, under James Keith, who resided in Alexandria. He held the position of deputy until the death of Mr. Keith, which occurred in 1824, when he was appointed clerk by the county court. When the appointing power was taken from the court by the amended constitution of Virginia, he was elected clerk by the people without opposition.

He held the office of clerk and president of the Valley Bank until his death, which occurred in April, 1856, in the seventy-first year of his age, having been in the public service for fifty-two years.

In writing the life of an individual the author is greatly aided if there be eccentricities in his character. Idiosyncrasies serve as marks, like some central figure in a group, by which the person is readily recognized. He of whom I write had none of the peculiarities which mark the eccentric man. It has ever been the *desideratum* of the educator to adopt some system of training which would cultivate all the faculties of the mind and heart, so that reason and affection should be well balanced. This desirable end has rarely been attained, but what training has so often failed to accomplish—the well-balanced mind—is beautifully illustrated in the life of Thomas Allen Tidball. In his character there were no rough edges, no asperity, nor any of the little things that destroy the harmony of many a good man's character. But there was a smoothness and roundness of his whole being which inspired all who knew him with admiration and love. We have seen that he undertook the office of clerk (practically) in his nineteenth year, and held it until the

time of his death in his seventy-first year. So long a public servant, and under so many different powers of appointment, is rarely to be found. And how gratifying it must be to those who loved him to know that the voice of the people proclaimed him "a faithful public servant." In his dealings with his fellow-men no one possessed a higher sense of honor. His word was law to him. Tender in his feelings, avoiding offense to the feelings of others, firm in his principles, every one knew where to find him. "Do you recollect Mr. Tidball?" was asked of a friend. "Yes," was the reply; "a truer and better man never lived." Says his only daughter: "If he had any of the frailties common to humanity, his family were ignorant of the fact; to me he seemed perfect—not a defect—was benevolent, charitable and good to a degree rarely attained."

Some one has said: "If you wish to learn the true character of one, go to his home." The domestic circle is the crucible which brings out the true from the false—the gold from the dross—and how few there are who can stand the test. The husband, the father and the master are positions of great delicacy, and often develop traits which are not supposed to exist in many a man. Severe as this test is, seven years under his roof and daily intercourse with the subject of this sketch, convinces the writer that he was in all these relations a model man. As a host he was unsurpassed; the entertainments at his residence were models of excellence. During the existence of the old "district court," the bench and bar were often handsomely entertained at "Hawthorn," and many were the surprises which the poorer people of the neighborhood received through the kindness of his excellent wife on every

occasion of these big dinners. His character was not negative; his life abounded with acts of benevolence. Born in the humbler walks of life, he by his own energy worked himself into a position of usefulness far surpassing the bauble of inheritance. His life was spent in useful labor; and his mastery over himself will stand as a monument to him, for "he who ruleth his own spirit is greater than he who taketh a city."

Indulge the writer in a reminiscence of the family of Mr. Tidball. When the writer, in his fourteenth year, entered the family, it consisted of Rev. William Hill and wife, Mr. Tidball and wife and their three children, Joseph, Alex. Scott and Bettie Morton. William Marshall, of Happy creek, and Lewis Armstead, of Fauquier, became members soon after. Bettie Morton (now Mrs. Thurston), of Cumberland, and the writer, are the only living members of the family. Joseph was an accomplished scholar; became a lawyer, removed to California, and left the impress of his genius on the country of his adoption. Alex. Scott had gone to the same State before his brother, and became in that new country an artist of some note. William Marshall died before completing his education. Lewis Armstead graduated at West Point, and in the civil war espoused the cause of the Confederacy, and at the bloody battle of Gettysburg was killed in his saddle. For naught, does the reader say? No, no, dear reader, not for naught, but for a principle. The fundamental truth for which the South contended is not lost, but lives as an element, working as leaven in the new United States—silently but potently restoring the original chart to the old ship of state.

Up to the period to which we have brought the his-

tory of Frederick—1856—politics did not enter as an element in the appointment or election of county officers, and no State can boast of more efficient and accomplished officers than those who filled the clerkships of Frederick and adjoining counties. Moore of Jefferson, Phillips of Fauquier, Williams of Shenandoah, Gamble of Hardy, White of Hampshire and Tidball of Frederick, were gentlemen whose high qualities are well remembered.

From the time of organizing the county of Frederick (1743) to the close of Mr. Tidball's term (1856) embraces a period of one hundred and thirteen years, and during that long time only four persons—Wood, Wagere, Keith and Tidball—filled the office. But from 1856 to 1887 we have a period of only thirty-one years, and in that short time it will be seen that it required ten persons to fill the office, which had been done by four persons for one hundred and thirteen years. If there is a moral in this fact, let the curious find it out.

After Mr. Tidball's death, his son, Alex. Scott, was appointed by the court in May, 1856, and the election which took place in the same month elected Thomas Allen Tidball Reiley, who qualified in July, 1856. His service was short, as he died unexpectedly. In 1857, R. E. Seevere was appointed by the court. The regular election, which took place in the spring of 1858, elected J. P. Reiley, Sr., who qualified in July, 1858. J. P. Reiley, Sr., had been deputy under Mr. Tidball. He was a remarkable man. His memory was wonderful. He seemed to know where any papers in the office would be found. As a political organizer he shaped and directed the politics of the county as he

pleased. At first a whig, he defied the democrats, with a whig majority of several hundred; but, without warning, he changed sides, espoused the democratic cause, and at the first election turned the county over to the democrats with a majority of several hundred. Had he been ambitious, he would have rivaled a Talleyrand.

J. P. Reiley, Sr., resigned, and his son, J. C. Reiley, was appointed in his place, and afterwards elected and qualified in July, 1859. In 1865 the readjusted county elected C. W. Gibbon, and his son, C. M. Gibbon, was appointed in his place. In 1870 J. H. Sherrard was appointed to succeed C. M. Gibbon. Mr. Sherrard was defeated at the election of 1871 by J. P. Reiley, Jr., who filled the office of "clerk of the county" until the last election (May, 1887), when T. K. Cartmell was elected, and is the present clerk of the county. It will be seen that J. P. Reiley, Sr., and his three sons held the office of clerk for about twenty-five years.

Of J. H. Sherrard the writer would love to speak; but as he was only clerk for a brief period, it would be out of place to give him more than a passing notice. He was every whit a gentleman. Sir Humphrey Smith has said, "All be not gentlemen that are called gentleman"; but Mr. Sherrard did not belong to Sir Humphrey's category. For he was a gentleman of the olden times—courteous without ostentation. Few men have been more honored and respected by the community in which he lived than J. H. Sherrard. And now that he is blind, every heart yearns with sympathy for the "ex-judge."

We have now closed the history of the county clerks. We will now briefly name the clerks of the higher

courts, embracing the old district court, superior court and circuit court, under one head—the superior court. John Peyton was the first clerk (1793); Daniel Lee was appointed in 1804; Robert B. White, in 1812; Joseph Kean, in 1825; W. G. Singleton, in 1859; E. S. Brent, in 1865. J. B. Burgess was elected in 1871, and continued clerk until he was defeated by J. A. Nulton in 1881; and at the last election (1887) Nulton was re-elected, and is now the present clerk of the circuit court. J. C. B.

GILES COUNTY.

Giles was formed from Montgomery in 1806. The clerks of the county court have been:

1. David French, from 1806 to 1833, - - 27 years.
2. Rufus A. French, from 1833 to 1856, - 23 years.
3. Hugh Woodrum, from 1856 to 1858, - 2 years.
4. Edward Johnston, from 1858 to 1864, - 6 years.
5. John W. Easley, from 1865 to 1868, - 3 years.
   When he was superseded by William K. Booker, (military appointee), from 1868 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
6. George W. Easley, from 1870 to 1874, - 4 years.
7. Henry W. Broderick, from 1875 to 1881, 6 years.
8. James B. Peck, from 1881 to 1883, - - 2 years.
9. Ballard P. Watts, from 1883 to 1887, - 4 years.

Circuit Court Clerks.

1. James W. English, from 1856 to 1864, - 18 years.
2. Henry W. Broderick, from 1865 to 1868, 3 years.
   When he was superseded by George W. Porterfield, (military appointee).

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

Gloucester was formed in 1642 from York, and is one of the oldest counties in Virginia, but, unfortunately, nothing, or almost nothing, is known or can now be ascertained concerning the early clerks of the county, owing to the fact that, in the year 1890, all the records were destroyed by the burning of the clerk's office. At that time, Arthur L. Davis (whose portrait now hangs in the clerk's office) was clerk. The fact that a portrait of A. L. Davis had been prepared and hung in the clerk's office would seem to imply that he was a prominent man of his day, and very highly esteemed. There may have been others equally so, but no record of them has been preserved. The county being invaded by the federal army during the late war, the records were removed to Richmond, where they shared the same fate, by the burning of the city, as those previous to 1820.

The clerks, since 1820, have been:

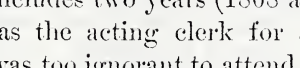
1. Arthur L. Davis, from 1820 to 1837, - 17 years.
2. John R. Carey, from 1837 to 1867, - - 30 years.
3. John Thawley, (military appointee), from 1868 to 1870, - - - - - - - - 2 years.
4. John S. Cooke, from 1870 to 1887, - - 17 years.

GOOCHLAND COUNTY.

Goochland was formed in 1727 from Henrico. The clerks have been:

1. Henry Wood, from 1728 to 1753, - - 25 years.
2. Valentine Wood, from 1753 to 1781, - 28 years.
3. George Payne, from 1781 to 1791, - - 10 years.
4. William Miller, from 1791 to 1846, - - 55 years.
5. Narcissus W. Miller, from 1846 to 1868, 22 years.
6. William Miller, Jr., from 1868 to 1887, 19 years.

☞ This includes two years (1868 and 1869) when Mr. Miller was the acting clerk for a *military appointee*, who was too ignorant to attend to the business, and, in fact, could scarcely write his name!



☞ The two *Woods*, father and son, were noted men in their day, and worthy of a more extended "memorial" than it has been in my power to procure from any of their descendants or from others. The following has been furnished me by a member of the *Southall* family, (a grandson of *Valentine Wood Southall*,) which was copied from a paper left by *Valentine Wood* as a memorandum of his family descent:

WOOD.

Valentine[1] and Rachel Wood, of London, had *issue* two children—

I. Rachel,[2] died, unmarried, in England.

II. Henry Wood,[2] born in London July 8, 1696, (old style); sailed from London March 4, 1713, and arrived

at Yorktown, Virginia, May 19, 1713; lived with Christopher Robinson, as his apprentice as a merchant, on Rappahannock river; left Robinson August 2, 1716, and came to Henrico county, and settled at "Bremo," in Henrico, November, 1717. Henry Wood was a person of good education, strong natural parts, and uncommon vivacity of temper. He acted forty-odd years as an attorney at law and as county court clerk, and in both of these occupations gained much credit, and established an unblemished character, and also acquired a considerable fortune for his children. He married on Sunday, the 13th October, 1723, Martha Cox, daughter of William and Sarah Cox, and died at his seat of "Woodville," in Goochland county, May 2, 1757.

Issue of Henry Wood[2] *and Martha, his Wife.*

I. Valentine,[3] colonel in the Revolutionary army; born Wednesday, September 2, 1724, at 2 o'clock in the morning, and baptized Friday, October 23, 1724, William Finney—Stephen Cox and Ann Hopper sponsors; married January 3, 1764, Lucy Henry, (born in Hanover county March 29, 1743, died in Fluvanna county, July 14, 1826), daughter of Colonel John Henry (father of Patrick Henry) and Sarah Winston Henry, and left issue eight children.

II. Sally,[3] born December 4, 1726; baptized January 29, 1727; married William Pryor.

III. Patty,[3] born October 7, 1732; married William Meriwether July 21, 1751.

IV. Three other children, who died unmarried.

Issue of Valentine[3] *and Lucy (Henry) Wood.*

I. Henry,[4] died unmarried.

II. Martha,[4] born in Goochland county March 12,

1768, and died in Washington city September 30, 1834; she married twice—first, Major Stephen Southall, of "Westham," Henrico county, eldest son of Colonel Turner Southall; second, married George Frederick Stras.

III. Mary,[4] married Judge Peter Johnston, son of Peter Johnston, of "Cherry Grove," Prince Edward county, Virginia.

IV. Valentine,[4] died unmarried.

V. Lucy, married Edward Carter, son of Edward Carter, of "Blenheim," Albemarle county.

VI. John,[4] married Gertrude Spencer, daughter of Charles Spencer.

☞ The three *Millers*, father, son and grandson, who successively held the office of clerk for about one hundred years, were men of the highest character, and were all accomplished clerks.

GRAYSON COUNTY.

Grayson was formed in 1793 from Wythe. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. William Bourn, from 1793 to 1812, . - 19 years.
2. Martin Dickenson, from 1812 to 1834, - 22 years.
3. James Anderson, from 1834 to 1841, - 7 years.
4. John Dickenson, from 1841 to 1851, - 10 years.
5. William R. Dickey, from 1851 to 1852, 1 year.
6. S. M. Hale, from 1852 to 1858, - - - 6 years.

7. James W. Ballard, from 1858 to 1865, - 7 years.
8. E. L. Dickey, from 1865 to 1870, - - 5 years.
9. D. C. Mallory, in place of E. L. Dickey, removed by the first county judge, and served eight months.
10. E. L. Dickey, re-elected and served from 1871 to 1875, - - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
11. F. J. Lundy, from 1875 to 1887, - - - 12 years.

☞ Martin Dickenson, John Dickenson, William R. Dickey, S. M. Hale, E. L. Dickey and F. J. Lundy were all related to William Bourn, the first clerk, by blood or marriage.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Martin Dickenson, from 1831 to 1833, - 2 years.
2. Samuel McCamant, from 1833 to 1835, - 2 years.
3. Orville Anderson, from 1835 to 1851, - 16 years.
4. Garland Anderson, who held the office - 1 year. When he resigned in April, 1852, and, strange to say, no person could be found (as the records show) who would accept the office, and it was vacant for four months, that is, until July 1, 1852, when
5. Jackson B. Hash, who had been elected in May, 1852, went into office, and held it until July, 1858, - - - - - - 6 years.
6. G. H. Matthews, from 1858 to 1861, - 3 years.
7. F. J. Lundy, from 1861 to 1864, - - - 3 years.
8. W. C. Bourn, from 1864 to 1865, - - 1 year.
9. L. H. Bryant, from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.
10. S. S. Cornutt, (military appointment), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - 1 year.

11. E. L. Dickey, from 1870 to 1875, - - 5 years.
12. F. J. Lundy, from 1875 to 1887, - - - 12 years.

☞ W. C. Bourn, L. H. Bryant and S. S. Cornutt did none of the business of the office, which was all transacted by F. J. Lundy, who had been employed in the office nearly all the time from 1859, and is now clerk.

GREENBRIER COUNTY.

(NOW IN WEST VIRGINIA.)

Greenbrier was formed in 1777 from Botetourt and Montgomery. As to the *clerks* of the county, though this work was originally intended to embrace only those of *Virginia* proper, I have made an exception in favor of Greenbrier, as was done with Jefferson, and for the same reason—that is, that the *memorials* in both cases were of clerks whose service was almost wholly in Virginia before the war, and before the disruption of the State and the formation of West Virginia; and for the additional reason that they were exceptionally good clerks, or otherwise remarkable men.

CLERKS OF GREENBRIER COUNTY.

Colonel John Stuart was born on the 27th day of March, 1749, in Augusta county, Virginia. He was the only son of David Stuart, who was a brother-in-

law of John Lewis and one of the first settlers of Augusta county.

Colonel Stuart came to what is now Greenbrier county when about nineteen years of age, at the time of the second and permanent settlement in 1769. When General Andrew Lewis, who was a first cousin of Colonel Stuart, marched to Point Pleasant in 1774, two companies went with him from what afterwards became Greenbrier county. One of these companies was commanded by Captain Robert McClenachan and the other by John Stuart. At the battle of Point Pleasant Captain Stuart's company was one of the three sent by General Lewis up Crooked creek to flank Cornstalk's position. This movement was executed so dexterously that the Indians were taken completely by surprise and put to rout. The battle of Point Pleasant has been, by historians of no mean repute, held to be the commencement of our first revolution. Colonel Stuart was in many engagements with the Indians; the last being in 1778, when a party of Indians came from beyond the Ohio and surprised and surrounded a party of settlers at Fort Donnally. This fort was about eight miles north of Fort Union, where Lewisburg now stands. Colonel Stuart was at Fort Union at the time and, when the news came, organized a force and went to the relief of Fort Donnally. The Indians were defeated, and this was the last attack made by them upon the Greenbrier settlement.

Greenbrier county was organized in 1778, and the records of the county court show that on the 25th day of November, 1780, John Stuart was appointed clerk of said court. He was indeed a model clerk. He wrote a most excellent hand, plain clear, distinct, and

after a hundred years is as legible as if written but a dozen years ago. At the close of the first deed-book of the county, he wrote a history of the settlement of the Greenbrier country, which can be pointed to as not only an example of neatness in writing, but also of literary culture and taste. In this account of the early settlement of Greenbrier, Colonel Stuart, in speaking of the first wagon road opened from Lewisburg to the Kanawha in 1786, makes this statement: "And thus was a communication by wagon to the navigable waters of the Kanawha first effected, and which will probably be found the nighest and best conveyance from the eastern to the western country that will ever be known." When one contemplates the distance and grades over the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, the foresight and judgment of Colonel Stuart stand boldly out.

Colonel Stuart married, in 1778, Mrs. Agatha Frogg, widow of Captain William Frogg. She was the daughter of Thomas Lewis, who was a son of John Lewis and brother of General Andrew and Colonel Charles Lewis. By this marriage he had four children—two sons and two daughters. Margaret married Andrew Lewis, of Mason county; Jane married Robert Crockett, of Wythe county; Charles A. married Elizabeth Robinson, of Augusta county, and Lewis married Sarah Lewis, daughter of John Lewis, of Bath.

Colonel Stuart was very successful in business, and amassed a large fortune, both real and personal. He was an excellent judge of land. He secured, at that early day, large bodies of as fine land as there is in the county of Greenbrier. When he first came to Greenbrier he settled near where the town of Frankford now stands, but afterwards moved to near Fort Spring, four

miles south of Lewisburg, where he had an estate of nearly four thousand acres. On this estate he built, in 1789, that large stone house which is now in a good state of preservation, and occupied and owned by his grandson, Andrew Stuart. In this old mansion he hospitably entertained his friends, and was visited here by the French philosopher, Volney, who brought a letter of introduction from General Washington. Here, too, he was visited by his numerous acquaintances from the eastern part of the State.

In the year 1793 he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Seventy-ninth regiment of Virginia militia. His commission, signed by Henry Lee, governor of Virginia, is now in the possession of Colonel Stuart's great-granddaughter, Miss Mag. L. Price, of Lewisburg.

In 1796, when the stone church was built by the Presbyterians in Lewisburg, he took an active part in the matter; prepared the subscription paper, and headed it with two hundred and fifty dollars, which sum, it is said, his wife supplemented with four hundred dollars. In the western end of this same church there is a slab over the front door with this inscription, chiseled by the hand of Colonel Stuart, to-wit: "This building was erected in the year 1796, by a few of the first inhabitants of this land, to commemorate their affection and esteem for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Reader, if you are inclined to applaud their virtues, give God the glory."

In 1797 he was elected a member of "The American Philosophical Society," held at Philadelphia, and the certificate thereof, signed by Thomas Jefferson, president, is also in the possession of said great-granddaughter. This certificate is evidence of the esteem in which

his literary attainments were held. He was a reading man, with a very inquiring mind, and had, for that day certainly, a library of valuable books.

On the 22d day of September, 1807, feeling the infirmities of age no doubt, he tendered to the county court his resignation as clerk thereof, and his son, Lewis, was appointed in his place.

The first clerk's office of the county stood in his yard, and was built by him for the benefit of the county, and is still standing, in a fair state of preservation. He also granted to the county the site upon which the stone court-house in the town of Lewisburg was built in the year 1800.

On the 23d day of August, 1823, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, he departed this life, and was laid away in his family burying-ground, hard by his stone mansion, and there around him four generations of his family now sleep.

Colonel Stuart at an early day encouraged a class of Scotch-Irish to settle in the Greenbrier Valley, from whom has descended a numerous race of thrifty and intelligent citizens. M. L. S.

SKETCH OF LEWIS STUART.

Lewis Stuart, second son of Colonel John Stuart, was born in Greenbrier county, on the 16th day of May, 1784. As stated in the account of Colonel John Stuart, Lewis was appointed clerk of Greenbrier county court upon the resignation of his father, on the 22d day of September, 1807. The same year, to-wit: October 15th, 1807, he married Sarah Lewis, daughter of Colonel John Lewis, of Bath county, and granddaughter of Colonel Charles Lewis—"brave Charley"—who fell

at the battle of Point Pleasant. He came into possession of the home place, near Fort Spring, upon the death of his father, and the whole of that large and valuable estate is now owned by his descendants.

He held the office of clerk of the county court until the 1st of June, 1830, when the constitution of 1830 took effect; and, on the 17th day of April, 1809, he was commissioned by Judge Coulter as the first clerk of the superior court of law of Greenbrier county, and held the same until June, 1831.

Mr. Stuart died on the 27th day of January, 1837. He had five sons who lived to maturity, viz: John, Charles A. and Lewis Stuart—all dead—and Henry and Andrew Stuart, the two youngest sons, still living in Greenbrier county, on some of the lands owned by Colonel Stuart. Mr. Lewis Stuart had four daughters. Rachel married General A. W. G. Davis; Jane married Governor Samuel Price; Agnes married Charles L. Peyton, and Margaret married Colonel James W. Davis.

Mr. Stuart died when he had passed only a few years beyond the meridian of life, leaving, as before stated, a very handsome estate, which had, in the main, descended to him under the will of his father, and whilst he never added much to this patrimony, still he managed his affairs in such manner as to raise and educate his family and keep intact his large estate, and before his death, made his "last will," leaving his entire estate, personal, mixed and real, to his wife, Mrs. Sarah Stuart, having full confidence that she would make a wise and equal distribution thereof among their children, which she did to the letter.

He was a kind and indulgent master to his servants,

of whom he had quite a number, granting them the time and opportunity to cultivate crops of their own, and thus add to their personal comfort and enjoyment; and to one and all of his tenants he was very generous.

Whilst for a number of the last years of his service as clerk of the county and superior courts of law of Greenbrier county, Mr. Stuart did not give his undivided personal attention to the discharge of the duties of his offices, he always had a competent, trustworthy and acceptable deputy clerk in place to wait upon the public, and during the terms of the courts he was always at his office or in the court then sitting, and in his bland and pleasant manner responding to any and every call made upon him as such clerk. He was a ready writer, and, when at his best, was a very competent clerk, having no doubt been well and faithfully trained in all the duties of a clerk by his father.

The friends and descendants of Mr. Stuart may point with pride and pleasure to the first order book of the superior court of law of Greenbrier county; the orders entered therein are very fine specimens of neatness, clearness, and in admirable legal form, and by comparison would put to blush many of the hasty and imperfect orders prepared by our modern clerks. His neighbors and friends almost idolized him, and well they might, for he was the soul of generosity and kindness. For many years his house was open and his bounteous table surrounded by guests.

At the first session of the circuit superior court of law and chancery of Greenbrier county held after the adoption of the constitution of 1830, the Hon. Allen Taylor, judge of the Greenbrier circuit, tendered to Mr. Stuart the clerkship of said court, and if Mr. Stu-

art had desired the place of clerk of the county court, and had taken any pains to interest his friends in his behalf, no doubt, when the county court first met under said new constitution, he would have been, by the justices of the county, elected clerk of the said court. But he chose the quiet and retirement of home, surrounded by an interesting family, to the cares and responsibilities of a clerkship.

His remains rest in the same family burying-ground near to the "*Old Fort Spring Church*," rendered sacred as the resting place of his father and mother, Governor Price and wife, and many other descendants of Colonel John Stuart.

SKETCH OF JOHN A. NORTH.

John A. North was born in the town of Staunton, Virginia, on the 15th day of December, 1794, and in that place received his education and made his home until the autumn of 1818, when he was by the late Chancellor Brown appointed clerk of the Greenbrier district court of chancery. Upon receiving this appointment he removed to Lewisburg, where that court was holden, and thereafter he made that place his home. On the 15th day of July, 1819, he was married to Miss Charlotte Blain, eldest daughter of the Rev. Daniel Blain, of Lexington, Virginia. They had four daughters, all of whom lived to be grown and married. Margaret A., the eldest, was married to the late Robert Johnston, at one time first auditor of Virginia; Mary E., the second daughter, married Thomas F. Hanmer, of Charlotte county, Virginia. These ladies died in early life, leaving no children. The third daughter, Isabel, married James R. Caldwell, of

Augusta county, Virginia; and the youngest daughter, Martha J., married Captain Robert F. Dennis. The two last are still living in Lewisburg and its vicinity. The two Miss Caldwells and J. North Caldwell, all grown and living near Caldwell depot, are all of the grandchildren of Mr. North now living.

Mr. North held the appointment of clerk of the district court of chancery until the constitution of 1829 and 1830 changed the entire judicial system of the State. In the year 1831, when the supreme court of appeals of the State was organized in Lewisburg, he was by that court of five judges unanimously appointed its clerk, which position, by subsequent appointments, he held until his death, which occurred in the month of September, 1857. In the year 1831 he was also appointed clerk of the circuit superior court of law and chancery of Greenbrier county. This position he also held, by virtue of subsequent appointments and the suffrages of the people, until his death. On the failure of the health of Mr. John Mathews, clerk of the county court of Greenbrier, Mr. North was chosen his deputy, and had charge of that office until the death of Mr. Mathews, and was then appointed clerk *pro tem.* of the county court until a successor was elected and duly qualified.

Mr. North was no ordinary man. Of keen perception, superior judgment and very fine common sense, he was no common judge of the law, and his opinions were often sought and always respected even by the profession. He never studied the law regularly, but from his strict habits of statute reading, his long attendance on the courts, listening to and remembering the legal opinions and decisions he from time to time

heard delivered, made him both a safe and judicious counsellor. As evidence of his fine judgment, it may be stated that on one occasion a gentleman came from the North, having claim to considerable estate. He made Mr. North's acquaintance and stated the nature, &c., of his claim to him. He assured him that he had a good and substantial claim, and advised him to employ a lawyer whom he named. This lawyer, after listening to a history of the case, gave it as his decided opinion that he could never recover. On the advice of Mr. North, he interviewed another good attorney, who also gave his opinion as adverse to success, but added that if he desired him to do so, he would commence proceedings, which he did in the circuit court of Greenbrier county, and after the case was fully heard, it was by that tribunal decided against Mr. North's friend. Mr. North was so confident of the correctness of his opinion that he then said to the plaintiff and to his attorney, "Take this case to the court of appeals, and consent to take one-half of the recovery, and your attorney and myself will divide the other half, and I will undertake, if you fail, to pay all the costs of such appeal." It was taken to the appellate court, and the judgment of the circuit court reversed *in toto*. And this is only one instance of many of a similar kind that could be mentioned.

Mr. North was a very superior clerk and draftsman, with a memory equal to any and every emergency. In all of his intercourse with the court, bar and suitors, during his long service as clerk, he was the polite and accommodating gentleman. Kind to the poor, his hand and heart were open to relieve their wants. In a promiscuous company he was reticent, but when with

his special friends he was full of life and a very agreeable companion. Of delicate constitution and frame (never weighing over one hundred and thirty pounds), it was wonderful the amazing amount of physical and mental labor he endured. In politics he was a whig, and all his influence was for that party. Fair and honest in all his efforts for the advancement of the cause he espoused, ever appealing by reason and argument to the judgment of the voter, he did much in moulding the political faith of the county and maintaining through long years, in every election, a very decided whig majority.

By education and early training Mr. North was an Episcopalian, and when he moved to Lewisburg, finding no Episcopal organization, he identified himself with the Presbyterian denomination, and always willingly and generously contributed to the support of that church.

During the war of 1812, when not of age, he volunteered in a company that went from Staunton and served until its close.

SKETCH OF MARK L. SPOTTS.

Mark L. Spotts was born the 31st day of May, 1812, in Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, then Virginia, now West Virginia. This little town has had many advantages. It was the place where the court of appeals held its sessions from 1831 to 1861. It is nine miles from the Greenbrier White Sulphur, so celebrated as a summer resort. It has been visited by some of the most noted men of our country. And it has not been unmindful of its advantages, for it has as few rude people in it, in proportion to the population, as any

town in the land. It was in this town that Mr. Spotts was educated, in company with George W. Taylor, James McElhenney, Thomas Mathews, Dr. Thomas Creigh and William S. Plummer, who rose to great eminence as a divine. Rev. John McElhenney, D. D., John Spotts and others were his preceptors.

In December, 1829, Mr. Spotts commenced to write in the clerk's office of John A. North, clerk of the chancery court of Lewisburg. Mr. North being an accomplished clerk, it was not long until Mr. Spotts had acquired such proficiency as to be called on to assist Mr. John Mathews, the clerk of the county court of Greenbrier. In 1834 he was appointed deputy for R. W. Moore, clerk of the United States district court at Lewisburg. Before a year had elapsed he was appointed by the county court of Greenbrier commissioner of the revenue. This office he filled until the office became elective, and then he was elected, holding the position for twenty consecutive years. He was a merchant in Lewisburg from the year 1849 to 1857. From 1857 to 1859 he was clerk of the Covington and Ohio railroad company, under the immediate supervision of that accomplished gentleman, Charles B. Fisk. He was deputy sheriff from 1860 to 1862. From January, 1869, to January, 1873, he was the deputy of George H. Lewis, and did the business of recorder of Greenbrier county.

In August, 1872, he was elected clerk of the county court of Greenbrier county for the term of six years from the ensuing January. In 1878 he was again elected county clerk. At the expiration of this last-mentioned term in 1884, no amount of persuasion could induce Mr. Spotts to be a candidate for another

term of the clerkship. He consented to stay in the office with the new clerk until he should become familiar with the duties of the office and the books and papers which filled its shelves. And this he did.

There was reason for the retirement of Mr. Spotts. He had the clerk's office in perfect order. He was the only man alive who could put his hand on any and every paper in the office, and it was time another was being trained. Mr. Spotts, by a long life of labor and care, had accumulated a good estate, and his age required that he should cease the tread-mill life of a clerk. He is now enjoying his ease with dignity.

In 1858 he was elected an elder of the Lewisburg Presbyterian Church at the same time with the late Governor Samuel Price, Thomas Mathews, David S. Creigh and John W. McPherson, upon the occasion of Dr. McElheney's semi-centennial as pastor of said church, and Rev. Dr. W. S. Plummer assisted in the ordination. He is yet a ruling elder, honored by all the church. Indeed, at the centennial celebration of the organization of the Lewisburg church, in 1883, Mr. Spotts was chosen as the fit man to prepare and deliver the address. This he did to the acceptance of the church.

In every instance in which Mr. Spotts held office he either resigned or refused to be a candidate again. He walked orderly; he conversed discreetly; he gave liberally; he was always firm; he never overbore; he has a well-rounded character; he is a true Virginian. What greater praise can be bestowed? He could not have been less than he is with his advantages. Living so near the White Sulphur Springs, he improved the opportunity of meeting with many of the first and best

men of this country. Think of those with whom he has had converse: Revs. John McElhenney, D. D., James Brown, D. D., W. S. Plummer, D. D., Lyman Beecher, D. D., Dr. Vandyke, Dr. Moore; also, the men of note in civil life: first Judge Brown, Major Sheffey, General Baldwin, General Blackburn, Judge Taylor, George W. Taylor, James Withrow, Sr., the Caldwells, first and second Governors Floyd, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, Van Buren, General William Henry Harrison, Chapman Johnson, General Walter Jones, W. C. Rives, Governor McDowell, Andrew Stevenson, Captain Charles Arbuckle, Charles A. Stuart, Ballard Preston, George W. Summers and Governor Mathews. With many of these he had close converse.

Mr. Spotts has, in many ways, been fortunate; but the most fortunate circumstance of his life was his marriage to Miss Virginia W. Wiatt, a connection of that gifted Virginia family, the Cabells.

GREENE COUNTY.

Greene was formed in 1838 from Orange. The clerks have been:

1. Philip Fry, from 1838 to 1844, - - - 6 years.
2. Robert Pritchett, from 1844 to 1863, - - 19 years.
3. W. S. Beazley, from 1863 to 1870, - - 7 years.
4. Daniel Miller, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
5. Wm. F. Sims, from 1871 to 1877, - - 6 years.
6. Q. R. Hume, from 1877 to 1887, - - - 10 years.
7. Z. K. Page, elected in May, 1887, for six years.

GREENSVILLE COUNTY.

Greensville was formed in 1781 from Brunswick. The clerks have been:

1. Peter Pelham (formerly deputy clerk of Brunswick), from 1781 to 1807, - - 26 years.
   ☞From the manner in which the records were kept, he must have been an excellent clerk.
2. Edmunds Mason, from 1807 to 1834, - 27 years.
   ☞He was a fine clerk, and much respected by all. He was one of the most prominent men of his day, and father of Hon. John Y. Mason, who from being a deputy in his father's office attained great eminence as a lawyer, judge, cabinet officer and president of the constitutional convention of 1851–2.
3. William Blow, from 1834 to 1840, - - 6 years.
   ☞The most accomplished clerk that Greensville ever had. He committed suicide in a fit of insanity.
4. John R. Chambliss (*pro tem.*), from 1840 to 1841, - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
   ☞One of the most eminent lawyers of his day; for a long time commonwealth's attorney; afterwards member of the secession convention and of the confederate congress.

5. Joseph Turner, from 1841 to 1856, - - 15 years.
   ☞ A fine clerk, and held in high esteem, as attested by the fact that he was repeatedly re-elected by the people without opposition. He was considered one of the most efficient clerks of his day.
6. D. A. Claiborne (*pro tem.*), from 1856 to 1858, - - - - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
7. John W. Potts, from 1858 to 1869, - - 11 years.
   ☞ A native of Sussex, and very prominent in Masonic and church affairs.
8. Wm. H. Judkins (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - 1 year.
   ☞ The only one of the former clerks who is now alive.
9. E. L. Turner, the present incumbent, was appointed under the enabling act of 1870, and elected by the people in November of that year; was re-elected in November, 1874, at which election the constitutional amendment was adopted which made clerks and other county officers eligible in May, and extended their terms to six years; and in May, 1875, he was elected for a term of six years, and again in 1881—the last time without opposition, receiving every vote cast except four. This sufficiently attests the estimate in which he is held as a clerk. Total period of his service, 17 years. Re-elected for six years in May, 1887.

E. L. Turner

HALIFAX COUNTY.

Halifax was formed in 1752 from Lunenburg. The clerks have been :

Of the County Court.

1. George Currie, from 1752 to 1773, - - 21 years.
2. Paul Carrington, from 1773 to 1776, - 3 years.
3. George Carrington, from 1776 to 1797, 21 years.
4. John Wimbish, from 1797 to 1818, - - 21 years.
5. Samuel Williams, from 1818 to 1834, - 16 years.
6. William Holt, from 1834 to 1852, - - 18 years.
7. William S. Holt, from 1852 to 1864, - 12 years.
8. J. D. Clay, from 1864 to 1878, - - - 14 years.
9. James Medley, Jr., from April, 1878, to November, 1878, - - - - - - - - 6 mos.
10. E. H. Vaughan, from 1878 to 1887, - - 9 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. William Holt, from 1810 to 1857, - - 47 years.
2. William S. Holt, from 1857 to 1858, - 1 year.
3. James Medley, from 1858 to 1869, - - 11 years.
4. W. P. Ensey, from 1869 to 1875, - - - 6 years.
5. George C. Holt, from 1875 to 1879, - - 4 years.
6. T. R. Jordan, from 1879 to 1887, - - 8 years.

Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

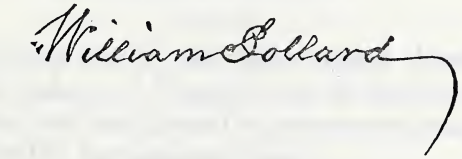
☞ There were clerks of both courts by military appointment during the years of reconstruction, but their names are not given.

HANOVER COUNTY.

Hanover was formed from New Kent in 1720. From a memorandum furnished by Bickerton L. Winston, who went into the clerk's office of the county court in 1834, and remained as such for eight years, the following list has been prepared, which he thinks is substantially correct:

Clerks of County Court.

1. James or William Claytor, from 1720 to 1740, - - - - - - - - - - - - 20 years.
2. William Pollard, Sr., from 1740 to 1781, 41 years.
3. William Pollard, Jr., from 1781 to 1829, 48 years.
   ☞ Known as *Billy Particular.*
4. P. B. Winston, from 1829 to 1846, - - 17 years.
5. W. O. Winston, from 1846 to 1862, - - 16 years.
6. R. O. Doswell, (and clerk circuit court), from 1862 to 1869, - - - - - - 7 years.
7. John R. Taylor, (and clerk circuit court from 1875 to 1887), from 1870 to 1887, 17 years. Re-elected in May, 1887.



Clerks of Circuit Court.

1. Thomas Pollard, from 1819 to 1829, - - 10 years.
2. Philip B. Winston, from 1829 to 1846, 17 years.
3. William O. Winston, from 1846 to 1851, 5 years.

4. W. T. H. Pollard, from 1851 to 1858, - 7 years.
5. James D. Christian, from 1858 to 1869, 11 years.
6. J. Alexander Brown, from 1875 to 1887, and re-elected in May, 1887, for full term, - - - - - - - - - - - - 12 years. Re-elected in May, 1887.

☞ It will be seen from above that the clerkship has been held by the *Pollards* and the *Winstons* in direct succession for more than a hundred years—a long and honorable record—all of them being noted in their day for their skill, intelligence and usefulness as clerks. Besides these Pollards, of Hanover, Robert Pollard, Sr., (son of William, Sr.), was for many years clerk of King and Queen, as was also his son, Robert Pollard, Jr.; also John Pollard, (father of Rev. John Pollard, of Richmond). Another Robert Pollard and J. M. Pollard were clerks of King William, and Benjamin Pollard (known as *Ben Trusty*) was at one time clerk of Accomack and afterwards of the circuit court of the city of Richmond.

HENRICO COUNTY.

Henrico was one of the eight orignal shires into which the colony of Virginia was divided in 1634. The clerks have been (since the government was established after the Revolutionary war):

1. Adam Craig, (county court), from 1781 1808, - - - - - - - - - - - - 27 years.
2. Izard B. Whitlocke, (county court), from 1808 to 1825, - - - - - - - - - 17 years.

3. Loftin N. Ellett, (county court), from 1825 to 1852, - - - - - - - - - 27 years.
   ☞ See sketch below.
4. James Ellett, (county court), from 1852 to 1855, - - - - - - - - - - - 3 years.
   ☞ He was subsequently appointed clerk of the circuit court; entered the confederate service in 1861, and was killed at the battle of Fredericksburg, December, 1862.
5. John N. Harrison, (county court), from 1855 to 1857, - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
6. William Fowlkes, (county court), from 1857 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - 12 years.
   When he was removed by the *military authorities*.
7. Temple Ellett, (circuit court), from 1867 to 1871, - - - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
8. Samuel P. Waddill, from 1871 to 1887, 16 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

Loftin N. Ellett

SKETCH OF LOFTIN NEWMAN ELLETT.

Loftin Newman Ellett, eldest son of Daniel and Sally Newman Ellett, was born on the 22d day of August, 1797, in the county of King William, State of Virginia. His father, having been presiding justice of the King William county court for a number of years, secured for his son a position in the clerk's office of Henrico county court, with Mr. Izard Bacon Whitlocke, the clerk. When he was about twelve years old

he came to the city of Richmond, where the clerk's office of Henrico county was located, and went regularly into the office, where he staid about eight or ten months, when he returned to his father's, in King William county, where he remained about one year. He then came to the city of Richmond again, and entered the clerk's office of Henrico county court permanently with Mr. Whitlocke, who was still clerk.

On the 6th day of April, 1819, when in his twenty-second year, he was appointed and qualified as deputy clerk. On the 18th day of December, 1823, he married Ann Virginia, eldest daughter of William D. Wren, of Richmond, Virginia.

On the 6th day of June, 1825, on the death of Izard Bacon Whitlocke, he was elected and qualified as the clerk of Henrico county court. He had been the active clerk several years before his election, as he had farmed the office from Mr. Whitlocke, who could not attend to the duties on account of ill-health. He was re-elected for several successive terms, holding the office and discharging all of its onerous duties faithfully and acceptably to all persons until the 5th day of July, 1852, when the new constitution of Virginia went into effect, and he was succeeded by his eldest son, James Ellett, who was elected to fill the same office. A few years after he was elected clerk, by constant and steady writing, he lost the use of his right hand, particularly of the two first fingers, which entirely deprived him of the capacity for writing. In this dilemma, by strong will and perseverance, in a short time he could use his left hand, and wrote a better hand than he did with his right. After his retirement from the clerkship, he was appointed a commissioner in chancery by the Hen-

rico county court, which position he held for several years.

About the year 1857 or 1858 he was appointed by Judge J. D. Halyburton clerk of the district and circuit courts of the United States for the Eastern district of Virginia, which position he held until April, 1861, at the breaking out of the war between the States. He was then appointed to the same position under the confederate government, which he held until April, 1865—the day of the surrender. He then remained in private life, quietly, until the 27th day of November, 1865, when, very suddenly, "the silver cord was loosened," and his spirit took its flight to that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

HENRY COUNTY.

Henry was formed in 1776 from Pittsylvania. The clerks of the county have been:

1. John Cox, from 1777 to 1808, - - - - 31 years.
2. Waller Redd, from 1808 to 1825, - - 17 years.
3. Sanford Reamey, from 1825 to 1831, - 6 years.
4. A. M. Dupuy, from 1831 to 1845, - - 14 years.
5. Jerry Griggs, from 1845 to 1864, - - 19 years.
6. Geo. D. Graveley, from 1864 to 1869, - 5 years.
7. T. E. Donegan, from 1869 to 1870, - - 1 year.
8. Geo. D. Graveley, from 1870 to 1875, - 5 years.
9. J. H. Matthews, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.

Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

SKETCH OF ANTHONY M. DUPUY.

Anthony M. Dupuy was born in the city of Richmond about the beginning of the present century. He was descended from a Virginia family of the very highest respectability and standing, and in early life received such an education as the means of his family and the circumstances of the times justified. Having received a legal education and obtained license to practice law, about the year 1820, by the advice and through the influence of the late Wm. R. Chaplain, of Bedford, then a prominent and leading lawyer practicing in the county of Henry, he was induced to settle in the town of Martinsville, the present county seat of that county. Mr. Dupuy practiced law in the counties of Patrick, Henry and Franklin until the November county court of Henry, 1825, when, upon the death of Waller Redd, he was appointed by Judge Fleming Saunders, then judge of that circuit, his successor.

By the provisions of the amended constitution of 1829–30, the clerks of courts were to be appointed by their respective courts; and the general assembly having by the act of March 13, 1831, prescribed the term of office to be seven years, Mr. Dupuy was continuously appointed for twenty-seven years, filling the office until the first general election under the amended constitution of 1851–2, which came off in the month of October, 1852. The ratification of that constitution swept away all the old landmarks by which the State had been guided; the election of all the officers, from the judges of the court of appeals down to that of overseer of the poor, was submitted to the people, and a thorough revolution in the legislative, executive and

judicial departments of the government effected. At that election Mr. Dupuy, although ardently supported by a very large proportion of the wealth and intelligence of the county, was defeated. Although no one called in question the ability, zeal and fidelity with which he discharged the important duties of his office during that long period, still he was defeated, under the influence of the insane and delusive cry that the offices of Virginia had, ever since the foundation of the government, been in the hands of the gentlemen of the "old *regime*," who for many years had reaped the emoluments of office; that the State had been ruled by an "oligarchy"; that the popular verdict had, in language too plain to be misunderstood, demanded a change, and that it was high time for the old "set," who had grown fat on the perquisites of office, to step aside and let the *novi homines* come in for their share. After his defeat, Mr. Dupuy continued to reside in the town of Martinsville until the day of his death, from cancer of the stomach.

It was the concurrent testimony of the entire bar who during his incumbency practiced in Henry, of all the officers of the county, as well as the entire community, that for diligence, faithfulness, accuracy, for systematic arrangement of the papers under his charge, the strict formality as well as the legality with which his orders were drawn up, Mr. Dupuy had few equals and no superiors in the broad limits of Virginia.

The old clerks of Virginia were men of the very highest social standing, who, by their sound, discriminating judgment, their extensive knowledge of the practical part of the law, their long experience and their unblemished character, had won for themselves

the unbounded confidence of the communities in which they lived. Among these Mr. Dupuy occupied a high and deserving rank.

"Go search the world of living men,
Where will you find their like again?"

Mr. Dupuy was possessed of social qualities of the very highest type, was fond of the society of his friends and intimate acquaintances, and by those who knew him and enjoyed his confidence he was held in the very highest esteem. S. G. S.

HIGHLAND COUNTY.

Highland was formed in 1847 from parts of Bath and Pendleton. There have been but two clerks, besides three military appointees:

1. Adam Stephenson, from 1847 to 1864, - 17 years.
2. Jacob C. Matheny, from 1864 to 1865. Being disqualified from holding the office, on account of his active participation in the *war of the rebellion*, Captain Matheny had to retire, but discharged all the duties of clerk for A. J. Jones from 1865 to 1869, and for Thomas H. Sloven to 1870, when he was appointed clerk by the judge of the county court, and has held it from that time to 1st July, 1887—making, in all, - - - - - - - - - - - - 23 years.

And was re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

MEMORIAL OF ADAM STEPHENSON.

Adam Stephenson, the first clerk of Highland county, was born March 15th, 1811, in Bath county. He had very limited advantages of education, but, by his own unaided exertions and determination, he became very proficient in mathematics. The first public office he ever held was deputy sheriff of Bath county from 1840 to 1847. In January, 1838, he married Miss Charlotte Wilson, daughter of John Wilson, of Bath county. At the organization of the county court, on the 20th day of May, 1847, he was elected clerk; was re-elected in 1852 by the people, and again in 1858, and continued to hold the office until July, 1864. He was also a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1850–51 from the district composed of Bath, Rockbridge and Augusta.

He was an excellent clerk, very methodical in his habits, and performed the duties of his office to the entire satisfaction of the courts and of the people. He kept the records in perfect order, and never lost or mislaid a paper, although the records had to be removed during the war and hid to prevent destruction by the federal army.

MEMORIAL OF CAPTAIN JACOB C. MATHENY.

He was born February 27th, 1837, in Bath county (now Highland). He was a son of Abijah Matheny; volunteered as a private in Company E, Thirty-first Virginia regiment of Early's brigade; was badly wounded at the battle of "McDowell," on the 8th of May, 1862; was elected captain of his company in 1863; was wounded the second time at the battle of Spottsylvania Court-

house, May 19th, 1864; was a brave soldier and distinguished for his unflinching courage in battle.

In May, 1864, he was elected to succeed Adam Stephenson as clerk of Highland county, but served but one year, when, being disqualified from holding the office, he retired, but continued to discharge all its duties as the deputy of A. J. Jones from 1865 to 1869, and for Thomas H. Sloven from 1869 to 1870, when he was appointed clerk by the judge of the county court; was elected clerk by the people in May, 1870, and has held the office by popular election from that time to the present (1887), and re-elected in May, 1887, for another term. He is a good clerk; keeps his office in beautiful order, taking great pride in it.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY.

Isle of Wight was one of the eight original shires into which Virginia was divided in 1634. Its name was originally *Warrosquyoake* shire, which it retained but three years—probably because the name was so hard to pronounce. The clerks have been as follows:

1. Thomas Wombwell, from 1645 to 1656, - 11 years.
2. Thomas Woodson, from 1656 to 1662, - 6 years.
3. John Jennings, from 1662 to 1677, - - 15 years.
4. John Broomfield, from 1677 to 1679, - 2 years.
5. John Pitt, from 1679 to 1692, - - - - 13 years.
6. Hugh Davis, from 1692 (died in a month.)
7. Charles Chapman, from 1692 to 1710, - 18 years.
8. Henry Lightfoot, from 1710 to 1729, - 19 years.

9. James Ingles, from 1729 to 1732, - - 3 years.
10. James Baker, from 1732 to 1754, - - - 22 years.
11. Richard Baker, from 1754 to 1770, - - 16 years.
12. William Drew, from 1770 to 1772, - - 2 years.
13. Nathaniel Burwell, from 1772 to 1787, - 15 years.
14. Francis Young (1st), from 1787 to 1794, 7 years.
15. James Young, from 1794 to 1800, - - 6 years.
16. Francis Young (2d), from 1800 to 1801, 1 year.
17. Nathaniel Young, from 1801 to 1841, - 40 years.
18. Nathaniel Peyton Young (1st), from 1841 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - 28 years.
19. Charles H. Hart, from 1869 to 1870, - 1 year.
20. Nathaniel Peyton Young (2d), from 1870 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - 17 years.

☞ It will be seen that the clerkship has been held by the *Young* family for a hundred years—that is, from 1787 to 1887.

Francis Young (1st) came to Isle of Wight in 1768 from Brunswick, where he had served as deputy clerk with John Robinson, deputy under Robert Turnbull, ancestor of the present clerk of that county. He took charge of the office of Isle of Wight under Richard Baker, and continued in the office as deputy until his death, then for William Drew, and afterwards for Nathaniel Burwell, who left the county during the war of the Revolution and went to the north side of the James, (probably to King William.—F. J.) leaving Francis Young in charge of the office. He afterwards went into service himself, and when Tarleton made a *raid* upon Smithfield (which was then the county seat) in 1781, he was foiled in his intended effort to burn the county records by the wife of Francis Young, who re-

moved and buried them in a *trunk*, which is in the clerk's office *now*, having been preserved as a monument of Mrs. Young's patriotism and fortitude.

Francis Young was succeeded as clerk by his son, James, who died in 1780, and was succeeded by his brother, Francis, who died in December, 1780, and was succeeeed by his brother, Nathaniel, who died July 24, 1841, and was succeeded, in September, 1841, by Nathaniel Peyton Young, the present clerk, who was then twenty-five years and seven months of age, and who has been regularly appointed or elected and held the office, without opposition, ever since, save for the short time from May, 1869, to June, 1870, when he was removed by *military authority*. During that period the office was nominally filled by Charles H. Hart, a young man from Southampton county, who was able to take the required oath.

The *Wombwell* family (first clerk) is still represented in the county by the somewhat changed name of *Womble*.

Of the Woodwards there is no trace left, nor of the Broomfields nor Ingles. Hugh Davis, William Drew, John Pitt and Charles Chapman are represented by a number of worthy and highly esteemed descendants. Colonel John Pitt was a man of great influence in his day and a large land-owner. He was the neighbor and friend of Colonel Joseph Bridger, king's counsel and secretary, who died in 1634, and whose tomb is now to be seen intact.

John Jennings was also a man of wealth and, traditionally, one of great influence.

Of Henry Lightfoot there are many lineal descendants, but none of that name. The last of the name

was Bartholomew Lightfoot, who was deputy clerk under Nathaniel Young from 1801 to 1830. Rowland D. Buford, late accomplished clerk of Bedford circuit court, married his granddaughter.

A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE YOUNG FAMILY.

In several of the counties in Virginia, as well under her colonial as independent organization, the clerkship has been filled by members of one family and name for long terms by successive appointments and elections. One of the most remarkable instances of the occurrence is that of the family of *Young* in Isle of Wight, who from grandfather, through three sons, to grandson, the present clerk, have filled the office for more than one hundred years without a break. Five gentlemen named *Young* have filled the office of clerk of courts in Isle of Wight county, viz.: Francis Sr., James, Francis, Jr., Nathaniel and Nathaniel Peyton Young, the present clerk.

Francis Young, the first clerk with that name, was born in Brunswick county, Virginia, in 1735. He was the issue of Michael Young by marriage with Martha Saddler. In early life he entered the office of Robin Turnbull, the then clerk of Brunswick county, to whom he was appointed a deputy clerk. When acting in that capacity, Francis Young, Sr., married Elizabeth Bennett, a descendant of Richard Bennett, colonial governor in 1652, and whose mother was Elizabeth Peyton; and their issue were four daughters and five sons. In 1768 he left the office of R. Turnbull and, with his family, came to Isle of Wight, and served as deputy clerk under Richard Baker, (the ancestor of the late Hon. Richard H. Baker, whose ermine whilst judge

of this circuit was unspotted, and whose professional life and moral character were pure and blameless), William Drew and Nathaniel Burwell. N. Burwell was appointed the clerk of court of Isle of Wight in 1772.

When measures were inaugurated by Virginia and other British colonies in America which were followed by their acknowledged independence of the mother country after a bloody but successful war of seven years, Nathaniel Burwell did not affiliate with the colonists in their hostile proceedings, but retained his loyalty to the British crown. Soon after the Declaration of Independence he left the county, and, as I learn from good authority, never returned to it. There is a tradition that, after the treaty of peace with Great Britain had been ratified, he did return and, after a short stay in the county, he resigned the clerkship, settled up his private business and moved to other parts. The only memento of Nathaniel Burwell in Isle of Wight county is "Burwell's bay," on which he owned a body of land. On its shore the old Indian town was located, and, in my youth, it was generally called "Warrosquoiake bay." The Burwells, in the direct and collateral lines, by this and other names, are yet numerous in Virginia and other States. The late Dr. Robert Butler, who died when treasurer of Virginia, married Eliza Bracken, daughter of Rev. John Bracken, then president of William and Mary college. Her mother was Eliza Burwell, of Frederick county, Virginia. The only issue of Dr. Robert Butler and Eliza Bracken who left issue was the late Dr. John Bracken Butler, who married Mary A. Benton, of Suffolk, Virginia, who, with several children, is now living in Brooklyn or New York.

From the first removal of Nathaniel Burwell from the county, and during the war of Independence, Francis Young, Sr., being the senior deputy, remained in charge of the office and discharged the duties of clerk. Independent of his faithful and satisfactory performance of the official business assigned him as deputy clerk, the successful concealment of the county records from the British army when passing through the county under Tarleton, in 1781, might be mentioned here as full evidence af the patriotic foresight and zeal of his wife and family. The preservation of the records is mainly due to the protective care of his good lady, he, at the time, being in the service, as commissary of the brigade of General John S. Wills. A detail of the facts connected with this memorable performance has been inserted elsewhere, and to repeat them here would be superfluous.

On the death of Francis Young, Sr., in December, 1794, he was succeeded, through an election by the county court at the January term of 1795, by James, his oldest son. James Young married Lucy Fearn, and their issue were James F., John B., Elizabeth and Sally. *In parenthesis*: James married Lucy Anne, daughter of Rev. Samuel Butler, the last colonial parson of Southwark parish, Surry county. He was also a gallant officer (major) in the Virginia line during the Revolutionary war of 1776. After the death of Rev. William Hubard, the last colonial minister in Newport parish, the Rev. Major Butler was frequently called on to perform clerical services in Isle of Wight—marriages, christenings and burials. At the "ministration of private baptism of children," he officiated for *one* now living in Smithfield. He was the brother of Dr.

Nath'l Young

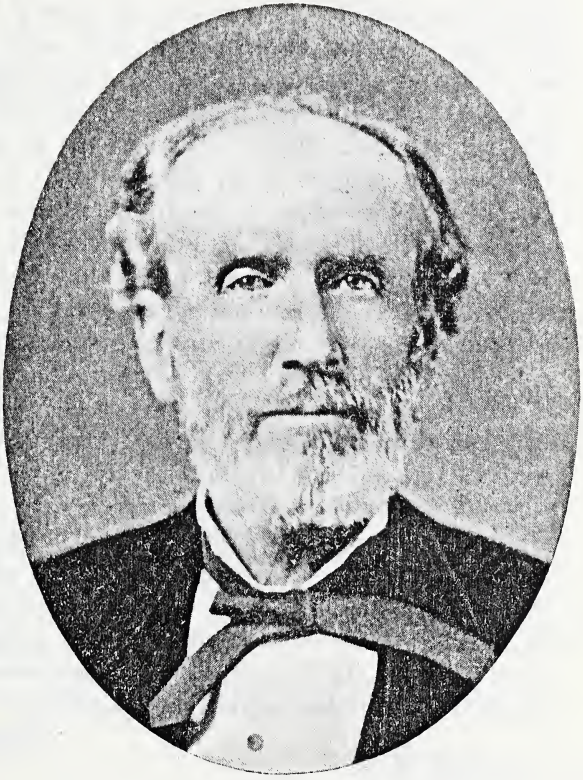
Ro. Butler, late treasurer of Virginia, and of John Butler, the father of the venerable William F. Butler, a highly esteemed resident of Staunton. James and Lucy Anne Young (*née* Butler) left no issue. James Young, the clerk, died in January, 1800, and was succeeded in the clerkship by his brother Francis (2d), through an election of the county court in the month of July, 1800.

The official life of Francis Young (2d) was of short duration; and his biography, in some respects, is remarkable. He had formed a matrimonial engagement with Sally Nelson, a number of years before, which was not consummated until a short time before his election as clerk. This alliance existed only a few months, he having died in December, 1800, holding the office only five months, and leaving no issue, but a widow, who subsequently married James Atkinson, father of the late Hon. Archer Atkinson. He was succeeded by his youngest brother, Nathaniel Young, the father of N. P. Young, the present clerk of both the county and circuit courts of Isle of Wight.

Nathaniel Young was born in Isle of Wight in 1778. He was elected the clerk of that county in January, 1801. In connection with his election a curious coincidence may be mentioned. When the magistrates met at the January court of 1801, the business of primary importance was the election of a clerk. The court being opened in due form, the question of election was taken up. There were two candidates for the office—Nathaniel Young, a deputy of his deceased brother Francis, and Thomas Godwin, who had served as deputy in the clerk's office of Norfolk county. The court proceeded to ballot, and more than one resulted

in an equal number for each candidate. At that time George Purdie was an old Scotch merchant of Smithfield, and a justice of the county, whose infirmities from age prevented him from attending the court. In order to break the tie (so-called *dead-lock*), an urgent request was sent to Mr. Purdie to come to the court-house and decide the matter. He complied, and after taking a seat on the bench, was informed as to the state of the case. Then Mr. Purdie addressed the candidate, saying: "Nat Young, I have known your family long and well. Your mother is old and too infirm to care for herself. If you will pledge me that, so long as you live, she shall suffer no want for attention, care and the necessaries of life, I will give my vote in your favor." The pledge was made, and Nathaniel Young was elected, and by successive elections filled the office of clerk until his death in July, 1841. The strange coincidence is that, in 1814, Nathaniel young married a granddaughter of the said George Purdie, and the first child from that marriage was Nathaniel Peyton Young, the present clerk of the courts of Isle of Wight.

The first wife of Nathaniel Young was Sally, a daughter of Ralph West, of Oystershell Neck, in this county. Their children were the late Dr. Robert West Young, for some time in the United States state department when Mr. Marcy was secretary of state, and Sarah Virginia Bennett, who married the late Dr. Robert M. Boykin, a brother of the late General Francis M. Boykin, who represented this county and district, as delegate and senator *ad libitum*, and who died in Richmond during the war for secession. The second marriage of Nathaniel Young was with Mary Robinson Purdie, the oldest child of the late Dr. John H.



A. P. Gouch

Purdie and Anne Moore, of York county, and a sister of Dr. John R. Purdie, now the oldest living native resident of Smithfield.

N. P. Young, the present clerk, was born on the 10th day of June, 1816, in Smithfield, and, by election of the county court, succeeded his father in 1841. On June 15th, 1843, he married Sarah Virginia Carroll, a daughter of the late Gray Carroll, Esq., who was the father of Gray Carroll, yet a resident of Fauquier county, and late professor of mathematics in the college at Blacksburg. N. P. Young survives his only wife, who was the mother of three daughters, now living with him. With the exception of himself, his daughters and two grandchildren, the only descendant of his grandfather, the *first* Francis Young, who is a resident of this county with the name of *Young*, is Nathaniel Francis Young, son of his half-brother, Dr. R. W. Young and Ann Webb, of Portsmouth, Virginia. His two grandchildren alluded to above are the issue of the said N. F. Young by marriage with Anne Robinson, the youngest daughter of N. P. Young. There are two living sons of Dr. R. W. Young, one in Washington city and one in New Orleans, each of whom is married. A daughter of Dr. R. W. Young married a gentleman in France, and is now living in that country.

J. R. Purdie.

JAMES CITY COUNTY.

James City was one of the eight original shires into which the colony of Virginia was divided in 1634, and has associations connected with it of a very peculiar character—more so, perhaps, than any other in the State of Virginia. Williamsburg, which is the county seat, was, at a very early period, the seat of a district court, and was also the capital of the State from the year 1698 to 1779, when the public records were removed to Richmond, which from that time became the capitol of Virginia. The court records were removed to the same place the first year of the late war to protect them from the federal troops; but it was only going "from the frying-pan into the fire," for they were all destroyed in the great fire in Richmond at the evacuation in 1865, as the writer learned, greatly to his disappointment, on going to Williamsburg in August, 1887, where he expected to obtain important and valuable information about the *old clerks*. The following meagre list is all that could be procured, which rested on the memory of some of the old inhabitants, going no farther back than the year 1831:

1. Leonard Henley, was clerk of both courts prior to 1831.
2. Thomas O. Cogbill, from 1831 to 1858, 27 years.
3. John A. Henley, from 1858 to 1861, - 3 years.
4. Nathaniel Piggott, (military appointee), to 1870, - - - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
5. William H. E. Morecock, from 1870 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - - 17 years.
6. Richard A. Wise, elected in May, 1887 for six years.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

(WEST VIRGINIA NOW.)

Jefferson was formed in 1801 from Berkeley. The original plan of the present volume was to confine it to clerks of the State of Virginia before its dismemberment in 1865; but as more than half of the service of the present clerk of Jefferson county, running through more than forty years, was within old Virginia, an exception has been made in his favor as an "Old Virginia clerk." The following autobiography of Mr. Moore has been furnished by himself at my request:

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VA., *April 11, 1887.*

I came to this county in April, 1824, from Leesburg, Loudoun county, where I lived seven years, having been born in Fairfax county January 29th, 1803. I practiced law in Jefferson and neighboring counties until September, 1830, when I went into the clerk's office of the county court as deputy clerk, in which capacity I served until October, 1840, when the clerk died, and the justices elected me clerk in December, 1840, for the term of seven years. There were thirty-two justices in the county; thirty were present at the election, twenty-four of whom voted for me, and only one of them is now living—A. R. Boteler—who has an office in Washington. The justices continued to elect me as clerk until 1852, when the election of county officers was given to the people, and I was elected after a hard fight. The people have continued to elect me at every election since—the last time in the fall of 1884 for the term of six years from January 1, 1885—and

I am still at work in the office at the age of eighty-four. The justices elected me three times, and the people five times.

In November, 1862, after repeated efforts, I succeeded in getting the court to remove the public records, and went with them to Lexington, Rockbridge county, where they remained until the war was ended in 1865, when they were brought back.

In October, 1863, General Imboden came to Charlestown and captured the federal garrison, and had to fight his way out, as a force from Harper's Ferry had taken possession of the town and carried off or destroyed everything that was left in both clerks' offices. From August, 1865, to the end of 1872 I served as deputy clerk in both offices in Clarke county, Virginia. After the county court in West Virginia was restored, delegates met in a convention to nominate county officers—the first time they ever had been nominated in the county. The delegates traded off the old clerks, but the people rose up and declared that they would have the old clerks; and at the August election I beat the nominee of the convention by nearly four hundred votes. I have had no trouble since, having been elected by the people in 1878 and 1884 without opposition.

Thomas A. Moore.

☞ A memorandum from another hand, accompanying the above, states that Mr. Moore was clerk of the court at the arraignment and trial of *John Brown;* and that, while an original Union man and opposed to secession, he sided with Virginia after she seceded, and aided the rebellion so far as he could.

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY.

King and Queen was formed in 1720 from Richmond county. Its records having been more than once destroyed by fire, nothing can be gathered from those of the early clerks of this county; and nearly all of the older inhabitants have passed away, leaving almost nothing to be gleaned from tradition. Even their names seem not to have been preserved with any certainty. The first of whom any reliable information can be obtained, was:

1. —— Tunstall, who lived about ten miles from the county seat, conducting the business of the office chiefly through his deputy.
2. Robert Pollard, who succeeded Mr. Tunstall as clerk, about the year 1800, and served as clerk until his death in 1835 —making - - - - - - - - - - - 35 years.
   ☞ He was a man of uncommon intelligence, the strictest integrity, and perhaps as skillful and faithful a clerk as any in the State.
3. Robert Pollard, Jr., was clerk from 1835 to 1876, - - - - - - - - - - - 41 years.
4. B. F. Taylor, (present incumbent), from 1876 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 11 years.

Since the foregoing memorandum was made from information gathered from various sources, the following letter has been received from Dr. B. H. Walker, of Stevensville, King and Queen, which is deemed well

worthy of publication as an interesting historical picture of the Pollards and other clerks of King and Queen:

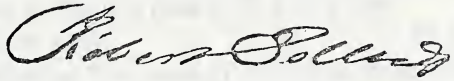
"The clerk who preceded Robert Pollard, Sr., was named Tunstall—his first name I cannot ascertain, as our clerk's office has been twice burned, and all the early records were lost. Mr. Tunstall never lived at the courthouse, but some ten or twelve miles away, and kept the county records at his house. On court days, which was the second Monday, he carried them to the courthouse with him in his old *stick gig*. He was a man of the world, fond of his glass and gaiety; and, when building his dwelling, had his parlor (drawing-room as it was then called) made large, so as to afford ample room for dancing and other amusements, and at the same time to accommodate other guests. His residence is still standing, and the unusually large parlor looks odd at the present day. About 1795, or perhaps later, he engaged Mr. Robert Pollard, Sr., (who was my mother's uncle), as his deputy, at a salary of *sixty dollars a year*, and gave up the whole business to him, while he spent his whole time in social pleasures. After his death Robert Pollard, Sr., succeeded him as clerk, and held the position for thirty-five years. Some years before his death he resigned the office of clerk of the circuit court in favor of his nephew, William Todd, who held it for ten or fifteen years, and then resigned in favor of his cousin, Robert Pollard, Jr. The very small salary received by Robert Pollard, Sr., when he came to the county as deputy clerk, seems most astonishing to us of the present day; but at that time the habits of the people were very simple, their wants few, and the demand for money much less than in our day. I will just say here, that Elder William Todd

was preaching for some years before he resigned the position of clerk, and continued to preach for fifty-one or fifty-two years. He had charge of four Baptist churches, and said to me upon one occasion, "I have been preaching to these churches for almost fifty years, and I don't think if all they have paid me were added up it would be enough to buy me a broadcloth suit." He did not say this complainingly, for that was the general custom of the day, especially among the Baptist churches, largely owing to the prejudice against the Episcopal ministers, who were paid by the colonial government, and frequently against the wishes and the protests of the people.

Robert Pollard, Sr., was a man of very great carefulness and the strictest integrity; and any crookedness on the part of those coming in contact with him would be apt to get his reproof. My father used to relate this circumstance: He was in the clerk's office one day, while Mr. Pollard was recording the proceedings in a suit about a disputed line between two neighbors who had become very much excited and angry with each other, and had been engaged in a long and expensive litigation about a small piece of land. "See," said Mr. Pollard, "what men will do when they get mad with each other. Here are two men who have been worrying the court; occupying much valuable time, and spending money that they cannot well spare, contending for a piece of land that can be almost covered by this sheet of paper." He was too candid to be very popular with the masses, but all held him in the highest respect. Before coming to King and Queen, William Todd had apprenticed himself (that was a common custom of the day) to his uncle, William Pollard, of

Hanover, but, at the earnest solicitation of his uncle, Robert Pollard, Sr., he came to assist him as his deputy, he having become old and somewhat disabled, and his son, R. Pollard, Jr., not being old enough to assume the duties of the office. To show the exactness of the Pollards of that day, it may be stated that his uncle, William, (who was known as "Billy Particular,") required him to pay him for the balance of the time for which he was bound to him.

Robert Pollard, Jr., who succeeded his father, was a man of eccentric habits; very rarely left home, and was scarcely a day absent from his office. He would hardly notice even an intimate friend when engaged in business; had an impediment in his speech, which made it difficult for him to be understood. A gentleman said to me once: "When I am sworn as a witness by Mr. Pollard, I never understand a word he says, but, being confident that he is only saying what is necessary, when he gets through *I kiss the book!*"

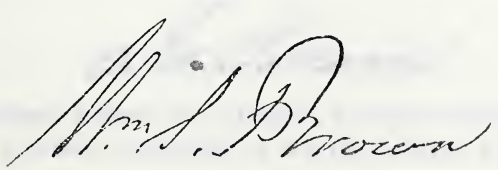


KING GEORGE COUNTY.

King George was formed in 1720 from Richmond county. The clerks have been:

1. Edward Turberville, from 1721 to 1723, 2 years.
2. Thomas Turner, from 1723 to 1742, - 19 years.
3. Harry Turner (grandson of Thomas), from 1742 to 1752, - - - - - - - - - 10 years.
4. Robert Armistead, from 1752 to 1761, - 9 years.
5. Joseph Robinson, from 1761 to 1788, - 27 years.
6. Lawrence Berry, from 1788 to 1822, - - 34 years.
   ☞ The records show that he was an accomplished clerk.
7. John W. Smith, from 1822 to 1831, - - 9 years.
8. John G. Stewart, from 1831 to 1834, - 3 years.
9. Edward Smith, from 1834 to 1838, - - 4 years.
10. S. J. S. Brown, from 1838 to 1845, - - 7 years.
    ☞ He was deputy for many years under Lawrence Berry, and was considered a most accomplished clerk.
11. William S. Brown, (son of S. J. S.), from 1845 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 42 years.

☞ Including five years of service as deputy clerk, he has been continuously in the same office for forty-seven years, but was defeated in May, 1887, by political management.



KING WILLIAM COUNTY.

King William was formed in 1701 from King and Queen. It has had a long line of excellent clerks; but owing to the destruction of the clerk's office by fire a few years ago, the names and dates of service prior to 1797 cannot now be obtained. Since that period the clerks have been:

1. Robert Pollard, from 1797 to 1818, - - 21 years.
2. Robert Pollard, Jr., (commonly called Robin, writing his name Ro:), from 1818 to 1842, - - - - - - - - - 24 years.
3. Robert Byrd Pollard, from 1842 to 1852, 10 years.
4. James Otway Pollard, from 1852 to 1865, 13 years. When he was removed by military authority.
5. William Dandridge Pollard, from 1867 to 1872, - - - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
6. O. M. Winston, from 1872 to 1887, - - 15 years.

☞ The Pollard family seem to have held the clerkship in King William for five generations, as they did in King and Queen and Hanover for a long time. Three *Robert* Pollards held the office cotemporaneously for a number of years in the counties of King William, King and Queen and Hanover, and all admirable clerks.

Robert Pollard, Jr., (Robin), was quite celebrated as the greatest fox-hunter of his day, always keeping a

pack of hounds of the purest breed, (he would have no other), and using an immense horn, imported from England, with a silver mouth-piece, and a hunting-coat with silver buttons made of twenty-five-cent pieces. He would often jocularly say that he attributed his fondness for fox-hunting to the fact that he was born about the "crack of day" on the 1st day of January, 1783, and was always in the saddle at that hour. He might have justly claimed to be the Nestor of the chase of that day.

Robert Byrd Pollard, who was clerk from 1842 to 1852, was very popular, and could no doubt have been elected in 1852, when the new constitution went into operation making clerks eligible by the people; but he declined to offer as a candidate, saying that he would not hold the office in that way.

LANCASTER COUNTY.

Lancaster was formed in 1652. The clerks have been:

1. John Phillips, from 1652 to ——, - - — years.
2. Vincent Stanford, from —— to ——, - — years.
3. T. Edward Dale, from 1655 to 1674, - 19 years.
4. Jolliam Stretchley, from 1674 to 1696, - 22 years.
5. Joseph Tayloe, from 1696 to 1716, - - 20 years.
6. William Dare, from 1716 to 1720, - - 4 years.
7. Thomas Edwards, from 1720 to 1746, - 26 years.
8. Thomas Edwards, Jr., from 1746 to 1770, 24 years.
9. Thomas B. Griffin, from 1770 to 1777, - 7 years.
10. Thomas B. Griffin and Thomas Shearman, from 1777 to 1778, - - - - - - - 1 year.
11. Thadeus McCarty, from 1778 to 1787, - 9 years.
12. James Gordon, from 1787 to 1794, - - 7 years.
13. Henry Towles, from 1794 to 1799, - - 5 years.
14. James Towles, from 1799 to 1820, - - 21 years.
15. Benjamin M. Walker, from 1820 to 1838, 18 years.
16. Robert T. Dunaway, from 1838 to 1851, 13 years.
17. Cyrus Doggett, from 1851 to 1856, - - 5 years.
18. Warner Eubank, from 1856 to 1869, - 13 years.
19. William Boyd (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
20. Warner Eubank, from 1870 to 1884, - 14 years.
21. A. A. Moody, from 1884 to 1887, - - 3 years.
22. Samuel P. Gresham, elected in May, 1887.

They all held both offices.

☞ In the year 1762 James Waddell, the blind preacher, was settled over the Presbyterian churches of Lancaster and Northumberland. In the latter part of his time here his residence was on Curratoman river.

LEE COUNTY.

Lee was formed in 1792 from Russell and Washington. The clerks have been:

1. Charles Carter, from 1792 to 1824, - - 32 years.
2. Alexander W. Wills, from 1824 to 1838, 14 years.
3. J. W. S. Morrison, from 1838 to 1858, 20 years.
4. Henry J. Morgan, from 1858 to 1869, - 11 years.
5. S. E. Thompson, (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
6. John B. West, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
7. James W. Orr, from 1871 to 1881, - - 10 years.
8. John R. Gibson, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years. And re-elected May 26th, 1887.

LOUDOUN COUNTY.

Loudoun was formed from Fairfax in 1756. In "Harris' Historical Collections of Virginia," page 354, we find the following in regard to Loudoun county, which is thought to be of sufficient interest to be embodied in this volume:

"A very considerable contrast is observable in the manners of the inhabitants in the different sections of the county. That part lying northwest of Waterford was originally settled by Germans, and was called the 'German settlement.' The middle of the county southwest of Waterford, and west of Leesburg, was mostly settled by emigrants from the Middle States, many of whom were Friends, (or Quakers), who had

suffered much persecution at an early day, severe laws having been passed against them in the early history of Virginia. In the Revolution, their non-conformity to the military laws, from conscientious motives, brought them into difficulty very often, as will be seen from the annexed extract from *Kercheval*: 'At the beginning of the war, attempts were made to compel them to bear arms, but it was soon found to be unavailing, as they would not perform any military duty required of them; not even the scourge would compel them to submit to military discipline. Coercion was, therefore, abandoned, and the legislature enacted a law levying a tax upon their property to hire substitutes to perform militia duty. This, with other taxes, bore peculiarly heavy upon them; their personal property was sold under the hammer to raise these public demands; and, before the war was over, many of them were reduced to great distress in their pecuniary circumstances. This selling of Quakers' property afforded opportunity for designing individuals to make profitable speculations, as they continued to refuse to pay taxes after the war, holding it unlawful to contribute their money towards discharging the war debt.'"

Loudoun has had only seven clerks in one hundred and thirty years, and all notable as such:

Of the County Court.

1. Charles Binns, from 1756 to 1796, - - 40 years.
2. Charles Binns, (his son), from 1796 to 1837, 41 years.
3. Charles G. Eskridge, from 1837 to 1851, 14 years.
4. Presley Saunders, from 1851 to 1857, - 6 years.
5. George K. Fox, Jr., from 1857 to 1865, 8 years.
6. Charles P. Janney, from 1865 to 1871, - 6 years.
7. George K. Fox, Jr., from 1871 to 1873, 2 years.

8. Edgar Littleton, from 1873 to 1887, - - 14 years.
Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

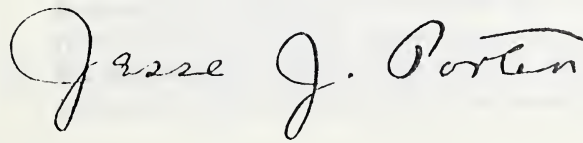
Of the Circuit Court.

1. William A. Powell, from 1832 to 1841, 9 years.
2. Thomas P. Knox, from 1841 to 1857, - 16 years.
3. James Sinclair, from 1857 to 1865, - - 12 years.
4. A. J. Bradfield, from 1865 to 1871, - - 6 years.
5. William N. Wise, from 1871 to 1875, - 4 years.
6. William E. Garrett, from 1875 to 1887, 12 years.
7. E. L. Bennett, (present clerk, elected in May, 1887).

LOUISA COUNTY.

Louisa was formed from Hanover in 1742. The clerks have been:

1. James Littlepage, from 1742 to 1760, - 18 years.
2. John Nelson, from 1760 to 1772, - - - 12 years.
3. John Poindexter, from 1772 to 1792, - 20 years.
4. Nicholas J. Poindexter, from 1792 to 1812, 20 years.
5. John Hunter, from 1812 to 1852, - - 40 years.
6. David W. Hunter, from 1852 to 1865, - 13 years.
7. John C. Cammack, from 1865 to 1870, - 5 years.
8. Samuel H. Parsons, from 1870 to 1875, (county court), and from 1875 to 1887, (circuit court), - - - - - - - - - 17 years.
9. Jesse J. Porter, (county court), from 1875 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - 12 years.



LUNENBURG COUNTY.

Lunenburg was formed in 1746 from Brunswick. The clerks have been:

1. Clement Read, from 1746 to 1763, - - 17 years.
2. William Taylor, from 1763 to 1814, - - 51 years.
3. William H. Taylor, from 1814 to 1846, 32 years.
4. William W. Webb, from 1846 to 1858, 12 years.
5. William P. Austin, from 1858 to 1869, 11 years.
6. Henry E. Boswell, from 1870 to 1878, (died), - - - - - - - - - - - - - 8 years.
7. W. W. Webb, (*pro tem.*), from February, 1878 to June, 1878, - - - - - - 4 mos.
8. John L. Yates, from 1878 to 1887, - - 9 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for a term of six years.

☞ The following is a copy of the order of court when the first clerk qualified: "Clement Read, Gentleman, produced a commission from Thomas Nelson, Esq., (secretary, &c.), dated at Williamsburg the XX day of April, in the XIX year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King George the second, by the Grace of God, King, &c., to be Clerk of the Court of Lunenburg, which was presented and read. And the said Clement Read having first taken the oath appointed by Parliament to be taken, instead of the oath of allegiance and supremacy, the oath appointed to be taken by an act of Parliament made on the first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the 1st, as also the seal, together with the oath of clerk, was admitted and took his place at the clerk's table accordingly."

MADISON COUNTY.

Madison was formed from Culpeper, by an act of assembly passed in 1792. The first court was held on the 23d of May, 1793. The clerks have been:

1. John Walker, Jr., from 1793 to 1808, - 15 years.
   ☞ Judging from the records, a very efficient clerk.
2. Benjamin Cave, from 1808 to 1821, - - 13 years.
   ☞ The records bear evidence of a faithful performance of duty.
3. Belfield Cave, from 1821 to 1858, - - 37 years.
   ☞ He voluntarily retired, after thirty-seven years' service, from the office which he could have retained longer if he had desired to do so. Through this long period he was ever at his post, and was ever held in the highest esteem as a courteous and faithful public officer, carrying with him in retirement, and through his life of ninety years, the veneration and respect that ever attaches to duty well done.
4. Francis H. Hill, from 1858 to 1875, - - 17 years.
   ☞ An efficient and faithful officer; commenced the practice of law in July, 1875, and is at present a member of the law firm of Hill and Jeffries. For two years grand master of the Masonic fraternity of Virginia.
5. Reuben S. Thomas, from 1875 to 1887, - 12 years. When he died. ☞ He was constable and sheriff of

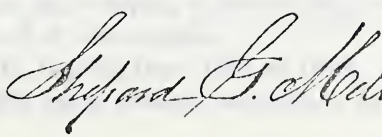
the county before his election as clerk, and was always faithful in the performance of any trust confided to him.

MATTHEWS COUNTY.

Matthews was formed in 1791 from Gloucester. The clerks have been:

1. Armistead Smith, from 1791 to 1792, - 1 year.
2. John Carey, from 1792 to 1795, - - - 3 years.
3. John Patterson, from 1795 to 1818, - - 23 years.
4. Thomas R. Yeatman, from 1818 to 1832, 14 years.
5. Shepard G. Miller, from 1832 to 1868, - 36 years.

   ☞ He faithfully discharged the duties of his office for thirty-six years, and was highly esteemed both as a clerk and a citizen.
6. John E. Kinman, appointed by General J. M. Schofield, who farmed the office to George S. Miller and William H. Brown, from 1868 to 1870, - - - - 2 years.
7. George S. Miller, from 1870 to 1886, - 16 years.
8. Sands Smith, from 1886 to 1887, - - - 1 year.



MECKLENBURG COUNTY.

Mecklenburg was formed in 1764 from Lunenburg. The following is a list of the clerks, with the periods of service and a brief note connected with each one, furnished by the present clerk:

1. John Tabb, from 1765 to 1775, - - - 10 years.
   ☞ His books seem to have been well kept; his penmanship very legible, and every record-book made by him is in an excellent state of preservation.
2. John Brown, from 1775 to 1795, - - - 20 years.
   ☞ From the records left in the office, he was a good clerk, and everything kept in good order.
3. W. Baskerville, from 1795 to 1814, - - 15 years.
   ☞ He gave general satisfaction to the public, and kept the records neatly and legibly.
4. Edward L. Tabb, from 1814 to 1831, - 17 years.
   ☞ He made a reputation as a first-rate clerk; his records are neatly and properly kept.
5. John G. Baptist, from 1831 to 1837, - 6 years.
   ☞ He was a good officer and strictly attentive to his duties. During his term he had a deputy whose writing is a marvel of penmanship.
6. Richard B. Baptist, from 1837 to 1858, 21 years.
   ☞ He gave general satisfaction as

clerk. After his retirement from office he entered upon the practice of the law, in which he was very successful. His death was a tragic one, and occurred in the court-room. Just after he had begun his argument in a cause before the court, he sunk down and expired in a moment.

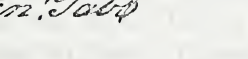
7. R. F. Clack, from 1858 to 1869, - - - 11 years.
☞ He was noted as the neatest and most careful of clerks, his motto being "a place for everything, and everything in its place." His penmanship was smooth and even, his papers and records well kept, showing that he was master of the duties of his office. After his removal by military authority, in April, 1869, he continued to discharge the duties of the office
8. As deputy of *George A. Endley*, military appointee, who held the office till April, 1870.
9. W. T. Atkins, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
☞ He made an excellent officer, and is now a prominent and successful lawyer.
10. R. P. Hughes, from 1871 to 1882, - - 11 years.
☞ He was very popular as a clerk, winning over his enemies by his urbane manners. He resigned the clerkship to accept the appointment of United States marshal for the Eastern district of Virginia.

11. J. M. Sloan, from 1882 to 1887, - - - 5 years.
☞ Captain Sloan was born in Ashland county, Ohio, and came to Mecklenburg county after the war. He was elected sheriff of the county after living here a few years, but declined to qualify. At a subsequent election he was again elected and qualified, holding the office for five years, when he was elected clerk of the county court in 1882. He has given general satisfaction in both offices, and is a candidate for re-election in May, 1887. ☞ Beaten by W. A. Jamerson, who is the present clerk.

The clerks of the circuit court have been:

1. J. J. Daly, from 1872 to 1875, - - - 3 years.
2. W. C. Curtis, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.

☞ Having served his first term, from 1875 to 1881, he was re-elected for a second term without opposition, and is now a candidate for re-election without opposition. This speaks well for the manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office and the estimate in which he is held as a clerk. He is a native of Mecklenburg; was second-lieutenant in company E, Fourteenth Virginia regiment, and lost an arm at Gettysburg. ☞ He was re-elected in May, 1887.



MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

Middlesex was formed in 1673 from Lancaster. The clerks have been:

1. John Lindsey resigns on account of ill-health, and Joseph Chinn is appointed clerk February 3d, 1673, as appears from the first record in order-book, from 1673 to 1675, - - - - - - - - 2 years.
2. James Blackmore, Jr., from 1675 to 1676, 1 year.
3. Christopher Robinson, from 1676 to 1694, 18 years.
4. Edwin Thacker, from 1694 to 1704, - - 10 years.
5. William Stanard, from 1704 to 1732, - 28 years.
6. Grey Skipwith, from 1732 to 1740, - - 8 years.
7. Thomas Price, from 1740 to 1762, - - 22 years.
8. Robert Elliott, from 1762 to 1767, - - 5 years.
9. D. Ker, from 1767 to 1772, - - - - 5 years.
10. William Churchhill, from 1772 to 1799, 27 years.
11. O. Cosby, from 1799 to 1806, - - - - 7 years.
12. Thomas Muse, from 1806 to 1811, - - 5 years.
13. George Healy, from 1811 to 1837, - - 26 years.
14. Richard M. Segar, from 1837 to 1838, - 1 year.
15. George R. Healy, from 1838 to 1841, - 3 years.
16. John S. Healy, from 1841 to 1846, - - 5 years.
17. Robert N. Trice, from 1846 to 1852, - 6 years.
18. P. T. Woodward, from 1852 to 1887, - 35 years.

☞ In 1869, when Virginia was "Military District No. 1," the last named clerk was removed, as they were all over the State; but an excellent man from Pennsylvania, William C. Conrad, who could take the oath, was appointed. He appeared in court, qualified, and

was not in the office again for a whole year, having left the whole business in charge of the late clerk, and would not receive any compensation whatever. This is an instance of disinterestedness that is not often met with, and is the more worthy of notice from the fact that it occurred at a time when the most of those who came among us from the North seemed to come for the sole purpose of making all they could out of our people; and so we say, all honor to Mr. Conrad!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Montgomery was formed in 1776 from *Fincastle* county, which was formed in 1772 from Botetourt and extinguished in 1776 by the formation of Montgomery, Washington and Kentucky counties. The clerks have been:

1. James Byrd, from 1776 to 1777, - - - 1 year.
2. Otway Byrd, from 1777 to 1778, - - - 1 year.
3. James McCorkle, from 1778 to 1785, - 7 years.
4. Abram Trigg, from 1785 to 1792, - - 7 years.
5. Charles Taylor, from 1792 to 1831, - - 39 years.
6. Rice D. Montague, from 1831 to 1858, - 27 years.

☞He had been in the office as deputy for ten years, and was therefore well trained before he became clerk. He was born in Cumberland county, Virginia, October 16th, 1801, and was a man of unusual intelligence, and of skill and fidelity in the performance

of all the duties of his office; careful and systematic in all his habits, and taking great pride in having everything done in the best way; genial and pleasant in social life, and universally respected and confided in as an upright and honorable man.

7. James M. Wade, from 1858 to 1873, - 15 years.
8. John R. Johnson, from 1873 to 1880, - 7 years.
9. John C. Wade, (county court,) from 1881 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
10. Charles I. Wade, (circuit court), from 1881 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 6 years.

NANSEMOND COUNTY.

Nansemond was in existence as a county as early as 1645–6, though not exactly by that name, but *Nansimum*, to which it was changed from *Upper Norfolk* by act of assembly passed in 1645–6. See Henning's Statutes at Large, volume 1, page 323. It appears as *Nanzemund* in 1674, when an act was pessed defining its boundaries, and *Nansemond* in 1705, when an act was passed defining the dividing line between it and Isle of Wight and Surry.

I have been unable to procure a list of the first clerks of Nansemond, the records having been destroyed more than once. Dr. John R. Purdie, living at Smithfield, Isle of Wight, (now in the seventy-eighth year of his

age), has given me his recollection of the clerks since 1815, as follows:

1. John C. Littlepage, from 1815 to 1830, 15 years.
   ☞ His life appears to have been somewhat unique. He resided in the county of Fauquier or Loudoun, but held the office of clerk of Nansemond for a number of years. He was a brother of one of the name who was somewhat distinguished at the court of St. Petersburg in the reign of Catharine II., and was supposed to be one of her *special* favorites.
2. John P. Kilby was clerk from 1830 to about 1845, - - - - - - - - - - 15 years.
3. Peter B. Prentis, from about 1845 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - - - - 42 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for another term.

NELSON COUNTY.

Nelson was formed from Amherst by an act of the general assembly passed the *25th day of December*, 1807. This fact may surprise modern legislators who, nowadays, take a recess of from one to two weeks before and after *Christmas*. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Spotswood Garland, from 1808 to 1850, 42 years.
2. S. H. Loving, (*pro tem.*), from September, 1850, to November, 1850, - - - 2 mos.

3. Thomas J. Massie, from 1850 to 1858, - 8 years.
   ☞ He was a grandson of James Steptoe, clerk of Bedford.
4. S. H. Loving, from 1858 to 1865, seven years under the old government, and under the *Pierpont* government from 1865 to 1869, four years—making - 11 years.
5. William P. Brinton, (under the military government), from 1869 to 1870, - - 1 year.
6. S. H. Loving, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
7. William M. Hill, from 1871 to 1887, - 16 years. Re-elected in 1887.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Robert E. Cutler, from 1831 to 1847, - 16 years.
2. G. N. Stevens, from 1847, and now clerk.

MEMORIAL OF SPOTSWOOD GARLAND.

Spotswood Garland was born in Albemarle county in 1777, and died at Lovingston, in Nelson county, in September, 1850. He was appointed clerk of the county court and qualified at the June term, 1808, and continued to hold the office till the time of his death, in the month of September, 1850. He had been deputy clerk in the county of Amherst under William Crawford. There is now in the clerk's office of Nelson county a well-bound book containing, in Mr. Garland's handwriting, forms for every entry to be made in any proceeding, civil or criminal, in a court of general jurisdiction, as was the old county court. On the flyleaf is this title page: "A Collection of Forms of the Best Kind, for the Use of Clerks, by Spotswood Garland. December the 10th, in the year 1798. Bought of D. S. Garland. Price 20s."

This shows how thoroughly he was preparing himself for performing the duties of his office, and for promotion on the death of his principal, or, as was the case, for election to the office in a new county.

He was a man of great natural ability; was a forcible and elegant speaker on occasions; he was a most hospitable gentleman; of fine conversational attainments; a wit and humorist of high order, and many of his "anecdotes," that kept the audience in a roar, would, if preserved, have rivaled the "Georgia Scenes" or "The Flush Times in Alabama."

His popularity was very great, and as long as he lived he held well in hand that "smaller constituency" which Mr. Rolfe Eldridge once told a friend he preferred to popular suffrage. He was eminently one of that "old time" class, noted for its intelligence and influence in the State, which begun to disappear after 1830, with other characteristics of our government from its foundation, and which ended in 1852.

Mr. Garland married a Miss Rose, of Amherst, a lady who survived him, and who must yet be remembered by many of the old people, and especially the ministers and members of the Methodist Church, of which she was a shining light. They had three children: Hugh A. Garland, a lawyer, once speaker of the house of representatives of the United States, and who died in St. Louis, to which place he removed to practice his profession. The now venerable chancellor of the Vanderbilt University; he had previously been a professor in Washington College, Randolph Macon College and president of the Universities of Alabama and Mississippi, and a man of great ability and a scholar of rare attainments. The other was a daughter, Caroline, who

married M. H. Garland, a lawyer of Lynchburg; they were the parents of General Samuel Garland who, after rapid promotion, was killed during the late war, an officer in the Confederate States army.

The superior court of law for the county of Nelson was held for the first time in May, 1809, Archibald Stuart, of Augusta, the judge, assigned to the circuit of which Nelson was a part. The act of assembly had appointed Spotswood Garland the clerk; that appointment was approved by Judge Stuart, and Mr. Garland gave a bond in a penalty of ten thousand dollars, with Robert Rives and his friend and old principal in Amherst, William S. Crawford, as his sureties. This office he held during Judge Stuart's term of office, which expired, under the constitution of 1829–30, when Lucas P. Thompson became judge of the circuit superior court of law and chancery, held his first term on the 8th of June, 1831, and appointed Robert C. Cutler clerk. Mr. Garland qualified as his deputy, Cutler being his deputy in the county court office; and these two conducted the business of both offices till 1847, when Mr. Cutler died.

The order-books, deed-books, will-books and all the records of the two offices are existing evidences of the skill, labor and unremitting attention and entire qualification with which the two offices were conducted for more than forty years.

It may be suggestive to state that from 1808 to 1865 this county had but *two* judges and but two clerks, and for more than twenty years of that period only one—the clerk of both courts. RO. WHITEHEAD.

ROBERT C. CUTLER.

He was practically educated as clerk while deputy

under Mr. Garland. He was an admirable officer in all respects; a gentleman of fine sense; a literary man and a wit; held in high esteem as a man and officer by the courts and the people. He was the father of Robert E. Cutler, who died young; a lawyer and an orator of reputation in the State. He had a large family, one of his younger sons being Landon A. Cutler, now a minister of the gospel of distinction in the Church of the Disciples.

NEW KENT COUNTY.

New Kent was formed in 1634 from York, which, the same year, had been formed as one of the eight shires or counties into which the colony of Virginia was divided. It was settled by families from Kent, in England, and hence the name of New Kent was given to the county. Owing to the destruction by fire of the early records, it has been impossible to obtain a list of the names and dates of the clerks' service farther back than the year 1800, with the single exception of *Chicheley Corbin Thacker*, who, as will be seen from III. Henning's Statutes at Large, was clerk of New Kent from 1673 to 1700. He united in his own person the names of three families that have been distinguished in English history, as well as in Virginia. *Henry Chicheley* was consecrated by Pope Gregory XII. as bishop of St. Davids in the year 1407, and arch-bishop of Canterbury in 1415. It may be supposed that the

clerk of New Kent was descended from him, as Kent was the seat of the See of Canterbury.

The clerks, since the year 1800, have been:

1. Bat: Dandrige, from 1800 to 1824, - - 24 years.
2. *John D. Christian, from 1824 to 1864, 40 years.
3. Bat: Dandridge Christian, from 1864 to 1871, - - - - - - - - - - - - 7 years.
4. Edgar Crump, from 1870 to 1887, - - 17 years.
5. J. N. Harris, was elected in May, 1887, for six years.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Northampton was originally called *Accawmacke*, and was one of the original eight shires or counties into which Virginia was divided in 1634. In March, 1640, its name was changed to Northampton; and in 1672 its limits were reduced by the formation of the present county of Accomack. Northampton is the southern extremity of the long low peninsular forming the eastern side of the Chesapeake, and known as the Eastern Shore. The clerks have been twenty-nine in number, the most of whom were for very short periods:

1. Thomas Cook, from 1640 to 1646, - - 6 years.
2. Edward Matthews, from 1646 to 1655, 11 years.
3. Robert Howson, from 1655 to ——, - - 3 mos.
4. G. Poke, from 1655 to ——, - - - - 6 mos.
5. John Boggs, from 1655 to 1659, - - - 4 years.

* See sketch of Robert W. Christian, of Charles City, for notice of John D. Christian.

6. Robert Hutchinson, from 1659 to 1664, 5 years.
7. Jeta Kirkman, from 1664 to ——, - - 8 mos.
8. William Mallinger, from 1664 to 1670, - 4 years.
9. Daniel Neech, from 1670 to 1671, - - 1 year.
10. John Culpeper, from 1671 to 1674, - - 3 years.
11. Daniel Neech, from 1674 to 1703, - - 29 years.
12. Hancock Custis, from 1703 to 1705, - - 2 years.
13. Robert Howson, from 1705 to 1720, - - 15 years.
14. William Waters, from 1720 to ——, - - 6 mos.
15. Zerubabel Preeson, from 1720 to ——, - 6 mos.
16. James Locker, from 1720 to 1721, - - 1 year.
17. Hilary Stringer, from 1721 to 1722, - - 1 year.
18. Godfrey Poke, from 1722 to 1729, - - 7 years.
19. Thomas Cable, from 1729 to 1743, - - 14 years.
20. Griffin Stith, from 1743 to 1794, - - - 51 years.
21. Thomas Lyt. Savage, from 1794 to 1813, 19 years.
22. C. B. Upshur, from 1813 to 1821, - - 8 years.
23. N. J. Winder, from 1821 to 1844, - - 23 years.
24. Louis P. Rogers, from 1844 to 1852, - 8 years.
25. LaFayette Harmanson, from 1852 to 1869, 17 years.
26. J. M. Brickhouse, from 1869 to 1878, - 9 years.
27. William T. Fatchett, from 1878 to 1881, 3 years.
28. E. D. Pitts, from 1881 to 1883, - - - 2 years.
29. Gilmore S. Kendall, from 1883 to 1887, 4 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Northumberland was formed in 1648. Owing to the destruction by fire of the clerk's office and the public records in 1710, it has been somewhat difficult to ascertain the names and periods of service of the clerks previous to that date. In an old book in the office a number of deeds and other writings are recorded a second time, probably from originals in the hands of the parties at the time the clerk's office was burned. As far back as 1664 *Thomas Hobson* appears to have been the clerk, and one of the same name appears in the records in 1676, 1677, 1678, 1680, 1681, 1683, 1702, and up to 1716, making a period of fifty-two years. This, though a very long term of service, is not longer than many others of the old clerks held their offices continuously; and though the present clerk (William S. Crallé) thinks it not probable that this was one and the same person, I shall here place him as

2. Thomas Hobson, from 1664 to 1716, - 52 years.
3. Richard Lee, from 1716 to 1735, - - - 19 years.
4. James Fortaine, from 1735 to 1746, - - 11 years.
5. "Billy" Claiborne, from 1746 to 1749, - 3 years.
6. Thomas Jones, Jr., from 1749 to 1778, - 29 years.
7. Catesby Jones, from 1778 to 1800, - - 22 years.
8. Fleming Bates, (a brother of Edward Bates, of Missouri), from 1800 to 1831, 31 years.
9. M. B. Crallé, from 1831 to November, 1846, (died), - - - - - - - - - - 15 years.
10. John R. Stith, from 1846 to December, 1850, (died), - - - - - - - - - - 4 years.

11. A. J. Brent, from 1850 to August, 1859, (resigned), - - - - - - - - - - 9 years.
12. M. B. Crallé (son of above), from 1859 to 1865, - - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
13. A. J. Brent, (same as above), from 1865 to 1869, (removed), - - - - - - - 4 years.

☞ F. E. Dowe, appointed by military authority in 1869, was himself removed in February, 1870, and J. J. McDowell appointed in his place.

14. William S. Crallé, was appointed clerk in May, 1870, under the "enabling act," passed by the general assembly in pursuance of the constitution that went into operation on the 27th of January, 1870, and was elected by the people in November, 1871; qualified as clerk November 13, 1871, and has held the office continuously to the present date (1887), making the whole period of his service 17 years.

And was re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

NOTTOWAY COUNTY.

Nottoway was formed from Amelia in 1788-9. The clerks of both courts have been:

1. Isaac Holmes, from 1789 to 1793, - - 4 years.
2. Peter Randolph, from 1793 to 1805, - 12 years.
3. Francis Fitzgerald, from 1805 to 1852, 47 years.
4. Richard Epes, from 1852 to 1879, - - 27 years.
5. Herman Jackson, from 1879 to 1887, - 8 years.

And re-elected in May, 1887, for a term of six years.

SKETCH OF FRANCIS FITZGERALD.

The first clerk of Nottoway county was Isaac Holmes, appointed when the county was cut off from Amelia, in May, 1789. Nothing is now known about him, and none of his descendants are known to be living in the county. He died in 1793.

Peter Randolph was appointed in 1793 to succeed Isaac Holmes, and served until 1805, when he resigned. None of his descendants now live in the county, and we cannot tell whether he belonged to the family so distinguished in the history of Virginia or not.

Francis Fitzgerald, the subject of this sketch, was born in Nottoway (then Amelia) county March 27th, 1783. He was the son of William Fitzgerald, a captain in the Revolutionary war. His father procured for him at an early age the position of deputy under Mr. Peter Randolph, then clerk of the county, which position he held until March 7th, 1805, when Mr. Randolph resigned his office, and Mr. Fitzgerald was elected clerk. He continued to fill the office to which he was so elected until the constitution of 1851–2 went into effect, when he declined to be a candidate, and was succeeded by Richard Epes.

Mr. Fitzgerald married his cousin, Fanny Jones, who bore him ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Two daughters and one son (the Rev. James H. Fitzgerald, of Buckingham county,) are now living. He died September 17th, 1860, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. He was a man of strong convictions, of unswerving integrity, of rather reserved manners, and slow to express his opinions, yet no man who ever lived in the county had stronger hold on the respect and con-

fidence of his fellow-citizens, or did more to mould and guide public sentiment, and to direct it in subserviency to good manners and morals. For years, being a widower whose children had married and left him, he lived alone on a large plantation, surrounded by his slaves, several miles from the courthouse, spending his hours not devoted to the duties of his office, in diligent study of works on political economy, government and religion. In politics he was an uncompromising democrat. Andrew Jackson was his ideal President, and on Mr. Clay, and the abominations of which he believed him to be the author, his powers of invective were most often exercised. While he never connected himself with any church, he was a diligent student of the Scriptures, and for many years before his death those who knew him best believed that he was a Christian, though unwilling so to announce himself.

He inherited from his father, and acquired by marriage, considerable property, (though his father gave less to him than to his other children, assigning as his reason that he had gotten a fortune for Frank when he procured for him the clerkship), and by strict attention to his office and economy he was enabled to leave at his death to his three sons and two daughters who survived him a handsome estate.

The following incidents will illustrate his strict integrity and punctillious adherence to the letter of the law and regard for the interest of those whose rights were entrusted to him: For one or more years he farmed his office to a man who had been his deputy, agreeing to receive a percentage of the fees. In due time the fee-bills were made out, and his part of them delivered to him. He had not proceeded far towards collection before

some one refused to pay, and produced a fee-bill for the same services receipted by the deputy at the time the service was rendered. Not waiting to inquire into the matter or to discover whether it was the result of intentional fraud or of mistake, he destroyed every fee-bill and never afterwards sought to collect any fee for services rendered during the period for which he had farmed out the office—so careful was he that no one should have cause even to intimate that he was a party to or received benefit from any fraud if such had been perpetrated.

Coming to his office one morning, he found his son, who was then his deputy, about to put to record a deed purporting to have been acknowledged before the deputy on the day previous. At that time the law authorized such acknowledgments to be taken only in the clerk's office. Recognizing the grantor as a resident of a remote part of the county, and not having seen him in the office on the previous day, he inquired into the facts, and learned that the son, on the day before, had attended a sale in the grantor's neighborhood, and had there taken the acknowledgment and received the deed for record. Nothing would satisfy him until his son had gotten his horse and, with the deed in his pocket, was on his way to the distant home of the grantor to take him before a justice of the peace for proper acknowledgment of the deed.

So systematic and methodical was he in his office that he could, in the dark, find any paper or bundle of papers he had filed, and he told a grandson that, for many months after he ceased to be clerk, he would often awake at night in great perplexity and anxiety, having dreamed that he was in the office searching for import-

ant papers in the place where he had filed them, and had found them removed.

On the march of the federal army from Petersburg to Appomattox in 1865, the clerk's office of Nottoway was emptied of its contents, and turned into a depot of supplies. The records and papers were scattered to the four winds, and the life-work of this public servant demolished. But on the generation now fast passing away he exerted an influence for good, and those who knew him bear testimony, without a dissenting voice, to his integrity, his fidelity to duty, and his patriotic devotion to all that he believed promotive of the good of his native State.

NORFOLK COUNTY.

Norfolk was formed in 1691 from Lower Norfolk, afterwards changed to Nansemond. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Samuel Boush, from 1742 to 1774, - - 32 years.
2. John Boush, from 1774 to 1792, - - - 18 years.
3. William Wilson, Jr., from 1792 to 1831, 39 years.
4. William H. Wilson, from 1831 to 1839, 8 years.
5. Arthur Emerson, from 1839 to 1859, - 20 years.
6. LeRoy G. Edwards, from 1859 to 1866, 7 years.
7. G. F. Edwards, from 1866 to 1869, - - 3 years.
8. J. P. Hodges, from 1869 to 1875, - - 6 years.
9. Rush a'Denise from 1875 to 1880, - - 5 years.
10. Alvah H. Martin, from 1880 to 1887, - 7 years.
    And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

MEMORIAL OF LEROY GRIFFIN EDWARDS.

LeRoy Griffin Edwards was elected clerk of the county and circuit courts of Norfolk county in 1858 over two competitors. Mr. Edwards was born in Northumberland county on the 14th day of February, 1804. He was a son of Griffin Edwards and Prescilla, his wife, who was Prescilla Lee, daughter of Kendall Lee, of "Ditchley," Northumberland county, who was son of Hancock Lee, youngest son of Colonel Richard Lee, cadet of the house of "Litchfield," England, and head of the Virginia family of that name. His paternal grandfather was Thomas Edwards, clerk of the courts of Northumberland county, who married Elizabeth Fauntleroy, daughter of Colonel Griffin Fauntleroy. Mr. Edwards was also nearly connected with the Balls, Bushrods, Paynes, Griffins, Fitzhughs and other well-known Virginia families. When a young man Mr. Edwards removed to Norfolk county, and, after teaching school for two or three years, was, about 1834 or 1835, elected collector of tolls of the Dismal Swamp canal, which position he continued to hold until 1865, when he was elected president of said company. In 1836 he married Miss Fannie W. Robins, of Norfolk county, daughter of John Robins, formerly of Gloucester county. In 1845 he was elected first president of the county school board, and continued as such until 1857, when he was elected superintendent of public schools. In 1858 he was, as above stated, elected clerk of the courts.

Mr. Edwards was a gentleman of high literary attainments and universally popular. He was an upright and honest man, a good citizen, a devoted husband,

father and friend, and as affectionate and tender in his feelings as a woman.

At the breaking out of the late civil war Mr. Edwards was a strong Union man, and was subsequently elected president of the Union State convention which assembled in the city of Alexandria in 1864.

He had three sons, John Robins Edwards, Griffin Fauntleroy Edwards and LeRoy Bushrod Edwards, at that time aged respectively nineteen, seventeen and fourteen years. All of them entered the confederate army, John R. as first-lieutenant of Company A, Third Virginia infantry regiment, Kemper's brigade, Picket's division; LeRoy B., a private in same company, and Griffin F., sergeant-major and afterwards adjutant Sixty-first Virginia infantry regiment, Mahone's division.

Notwithstanding the bitter feeling engendered by the war, such was the popularity of Mr. Edwards and the confidence in his honesty of purpose that he was re-elected clerk of the courts in 1865 by the votes of the returned confederate soldiers, who supported him almost unanimously.

He died on the 23d day of August, 1866, leaving surviving him his widow, Fannie W. Edwards, now residing in the city of Portsmouth, and the following children: John R. Edwards, now clerk of the circuit court of Carroll county, Missouri; Griffin F. Edwards, now of Edwards and Happer, attorneys at law, Portsmouth, Virginia; LeRoy B. Edwards, of Deep Creek, Norfolk county, and Rosa Lee Happer, wife of John W. Happer, of Edwards and Happer. Mr. Edwards was, at the time of his death, clerk of the county and circuit courts of Norfolk county, president of the Dis-

mal Swamp Canal Company and superintendent of public schools. His son Griffin F. Edwards succeeded him as clerk of the courts.

November 24th, 1886.

GRIFFIN FAUNTLEROY EDWARDS,

Son of LeRoy Griffin Edwards and Fannie W. Edwards, who succeeded his father as clerk of the county and circuit courts of Norfolk county, was born at Deep Creek, in said county, on the 16th day of September, 1844. In 1855 he was sent to "Union Male Academy," Harrellsville, Hertford county, North Carolina, where he remained nearly three years; then he attended a classical school in the city of Norfolk, and in the winter of 1861 entered Emory and Henry College, Washington county, Virginia. In May of the same year, the students withdrew in a body, most of them with the avowed purpose of entering the confederate army. Early in 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Sixty-first Virginia regiment, Mahone's brigade. Soon after he was detailed as clerk to General H. B. Davidson, commanding the Valley district, with headquarters at Staunton; remained there until the fall of 1863, when he returned to his regiment, and was immediately appointed sergeant-major, which position he filled until the fall of 1864, when he became acting adjutant and recommended for promotion. Young Edwards was in every engagement with his regiment after he rejoined it, and escaped unharmed until Friday evening, April 7th, 1865, two days before General Lee's surrender, at Cumberland church, near Farmville, when he was wounded in the right shoulder by a minnie-ball, and left on the battle-field. After his recovery, and being

paroled, he returned home, just as he was budding into manhood, and entered the office as deputy clerk of the county and circuit courts. His father died in August, 1866, and the following November Mr. Edwards was almost unanimously elected clerk over two prominent candidates, *only about fifty* votes being polled against him in the entire county.

He conducted the office with entire satisfaction until March 19th, 1869, (two years before the expiration of his term), when he was removed by the military governor of Virginia because he could not subscribe to the iron-clad oath. Mr. Edwards then began the practice of law, locating in the city of Portsmouth, and has continued in active practice to the present. He was appointed a commissioner in chancery of the hustings court of said city, and, in 1871, upon the creation of the office, was designated as the commissioner of accounts, which he still holds.

On the 6th day of October, 1869, Mr. Edwards married Miss Belle Bilisoly, youngest daughter of Joseph A. Bilisoly, of Portsmouth. In November, 1879, Mr. Edwards was elected to the legislature, serving the session of 1879 and 1880. In February, 1882, he was elected and confirmed by the Senate as superintendent of public schools of the city of Portsmouth for a term of four years, beginning July 1st, 1882. Mr. Edwards is now a member of the law firm of Edwards and Happer, Portsmouth, Virginia.

November 24th, 1886.

MEMORIAL OF ARTHUR EMERSON.

In 1840 Captain Arthur Emmerson, a magistrate of Norfolk county, residing in Portsmouth, was elected

"clerk of the court" to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. William H. Wilson. Judge Baker at the same time appointed Arthur Emmerson, Jr., clerk in the "circuit court" of the same county, and A. Emmerson, Jr., becoming his father's "deputy," was thus at the age of twenty-three chosen to fill a very responsible position, for which, however, he had been prepared while serving in the office during Mr. Wilson's term. In 1842 Captain Emmerson died, when this son was elected by the magistrates to fill the office of clerk for the county court. Portsmouth was then, as now, the seat of the court for Norfolk county. The prominent lawyers of that day in Portsmouth were Mr. J. A. Chandler, Messrs. John and James Murdough, and Mr. J. H. Langhorne; and those in regular attendance from the city of Norfolk were Mr. Swepston Whitehead, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Maxewell, Mr. McFarlen, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Millson.

Mr. Emmerson's school-days were passed in his native town, where he was a pupil of those well-known educators, Mr. Leroy Anderson and Mr. Henry Pendleton. Among his schoolmates were Mr. Wm. J. Baker, Mr. Daniel Hatton, Mr. Blow, Mr. Sam M. Wilson, Holt Wilson and Dr. Schooldfield. Most of them having passed to the silent land, do now rest from their labors.

That Mr. Emmerson filled the place with fidelity and diligence to which he was so early called may be inferred by his having the office confided to his keeping for an unusually long period. During the civil war, when Norfolk county was evacuated by the Southern soldiers, he remained by the records until Norfolk and Portsmouth passed under military control, and he

was removed by the military governor of this district. Mr. Emmerson was not again connected with the clerk's office except in the way of instruction and advice, when applied to by unpracticed officials. In December, 1864, he declined to take the oath required by the federal government, and left his home for the confederacy. Mr. Emmerson died at his home in Portsmouth December 15th, 1870.

The December court for the city of Portsmouth was sitting at this time, and as the resolutions passed by their body in memory of Mr. Emmerson were responded to by the entire community as a just appreciation of his worth and their loss, we quote a part of them:

"That in the death of Arthur Emmerson this community has lost a most estimable citizen, whose experience and advice in the sphere of usefulness in which his life has been passed was ever at the command of all who sought them, and were always freely rendered in a spirit of kindness and benevolence which was universally remarked as prominent in his noble character."

"That the void which has been made by the death of Arthur Emmerson will be realized most deeply by the poor and destitute, the widow and orphan, who have lost in the lamented deceased a fast and firm friend."

The board of directors of the Portsmouth Savings Bank uses this language:

"That we lament in common with our fellow-citizens the loss of one whose life, in its uniform tenor, was a happy and practical illustration of public and private worth, of liberality, munificence and charity. That whilst *mourning*, the inspiring hope springs up that

his spirit enters upon the threshold of eternity with the goodly memorial of a well-spent life, the harbinger of a blissful immortality."

The vestry of Trinity church, in one of their resolutions, has the following:

"In the death of our deceased friend the world has lost a man of pure character and noble life. The community has been deprived of one of its most honored and useful citizens, and the poor of a friend whose sympathy and help were never sought in vain. *From this vestry* has been taken a most useful member and officer, whose memory shall ever be sacredly cherished by us all."

One of the newspapers of that day says:

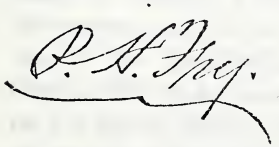
"The solemn funeral ceremonies attending the burial of the remains of the lamented Arthur Emmerson took place at Trinity church yesterday, at meridian, in the presence of a large throng of the people of our community generally, all of whom plainly wore a sincere sorrow in their mien. The Episcopal ritual was conducted by Rev. Dr. Wingfield and the Rev. J. S. Lindsay, the last named delivering a eulogy upon the life and character of the deceased so full of feeling and moving tenderness that it thrilled with emotion the hearts of all who heard it.

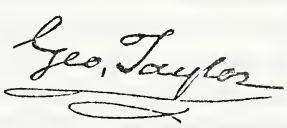
"At the grave the mortuary services concluded, and the remains were lowered into their narrow cell amid the subdued sobs of almost the entire multitude. 'Dust to dust, ashes to ashes and earth to earth' was pronounced by the priest of God, and all that was mortal of one of the truest friends and one of the best of men was laid away to rest with the ashes of his fathers until that great day for which all other days were made."

ORANGE COUNTY.

Orange was formed in 1734 from Spotsylvania. Its original limits comprised the whole of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge, at one time known as West Augusta. The clerks have been:

1. Henry Willis, from 1734 to 1740, - - 6 years.
2. Jonathan Gibson, from 1740 to 1744, - 4 years.
3. John Nicholas, from 1744 to 1749, - - 5 years.
4. George Taylor, from 1749 to 1772, - - 23 years.
5. James Taylor, from 1772 to 1798, - - 26 years.
6. George C. Taylor, from 1798 to 1801, - 3 years.
7. Reynolds Chapman, from 1801 to 1844, 43 years.
8. Philip S. Fry, from 1844 to 1859, - - 15 years.
9. Philip H. Fry, from 1859 to 1887, - - 28 years.





MEMORIALS OF ORANGE CLERKS.

Of the six earlier clerks no information of a reliable character can be furnished, they being all dead early in the present century, and none of the old citizens now living can tell much about them.

Reynolds Chapman, the seventh on the list, was born in Hanover county, Virginia, in 1777. His father was Richard Chapman, an English merchant, who married a Miss Mossam, daughter of an Episcopal minister of colonial days. Reynolds Chapman married Rebecca

Madison, a lovely character, daughter of General William Madison and niece of ex-President Madison, and was connected with the Throckmorton family, one of which, Elizabeth, was married to Sir Walter Raleigh. He learned the duties of the clerk's office in the city of Richmond, in the same office and at the same time with Hon. Andrew Stevenson. Mr. Chapman was a gentleman of high character, exceedingly popular and a fine clerk, as was fully attested by the length of time he held the position, which only terminated with his death in 1844. His son, Captain Richard Chapman, is now deputy clerk of Orange county.

Philip S. Fry was born in Madison county, Virginia, in May, 1801. He was the son of Reuben Fry, whose father was Rev. Henry Fry, a Methodist minster, and his father was Colonel Joshua Fry, of the Revolutionary army. Reuben Fry married Ann Slaughter, sister of Captain Philip Slaughter, who commanded the company called the "Culpeper minute men" in the war of the Revolution. Philip S. Fry entered the clerk's office under his predecessor, Reynolds Chapman, on the 4th of March, 1817, the day of the inauguration of President James Monroe, of which incident he was very proud, for he was a great admirer of Mr. Monroe, and often referred to it. When a friend would ask him how long he had been in the office, he would say, "I came into office with Mr. Monroe on the 4th of March, 1817." He remained in office either as deputy or assistant during the life-time of his principal, with the exception of two years, between 1830 and 1835, when he went to Kentucky. He was the youngest of a large family of children, one of whom was the late Judge Joseph L. Fry, formerly of Wheeling, Virginia;

another was James Henry Fry, late of Kanawha county. He married, in August, 1833, Miss Parmelia Anderson, a daughter of Edmund Anderson, who, at one time, was a prominent and successful merchant of Richmond. After the death of Mr. Chapman he was elected clerk, and continued so until his own death, in August, 1859. He wrote a splendid hand with great rapidity, and easily read; was also a fine commisssoner in chancery, and withal a first-rate judge of law.

Philip H. Fry, the present clerk, was born in June, 1834, and at the age of eighteen, was taken into the clerk's office by his father, and after his death, in 1859, was elected clerk, and has held the office ever since, by six different elections, to the present time, with the exception of two years (1869 and 1870) when it was held by a military appointee, whose only qualification was that he could take the iron-clad oath, which the incumbent could not take.

PAGE COUNTY.

Page was formed in 1831 from Shenandoah and Rockingham. The clerks have been:

1. William A. Harris, from 1831 to 1838, - 7 years.
   ☞ He represented his district in Congress from 1841–3, and was afterwards minister of the United States to Buenos Ayres.
2. Wm. C. Lauck, from 1838 to 1845, - - 7 years.

3. John W. Watson, from 1845 to 1882, - 37 years.
   ☞ From a "memorial" of this excellent man, published after his death by Rev. John S. Martin, D. D., we learn that "No man in Page county was more esteemed, as was evidenced by his repeated election to the clerkship of his county, which he held until his death, in 1882." He was a faithful and efficient clerk, and, besides this, was from an early period of his life a useful and devoted local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church.
4. A. Broaddus, from 1882 to 1887, - - - 5 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

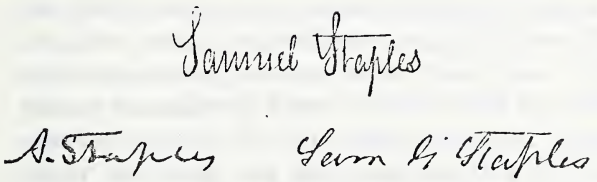
PATRICK COUNTY.

Patrick was formed in 1791 from Henry. The clerks have been:

1. Samuel Staples, from 1791 to 1825, - - 34 years.
2. Abram Staples (his son), from 1825 to 1852, 27 years.
   ☞ In 1844 he resigned the clerkship of the circuit court, and was succeeded in the latter office by his son,
3. Samuel G. Staples, who held it from 1844 to 1852, - - - - - - - - - - - 8 years.
4. Abram Staples (nephew of Abram), circuit court, from 1852 to 1869, - - - 17 years.
   when he was removed by military authority, the appointee (John L. Anglin) holding to 1st January, 1871, - - - 2 years.

5. Henry Tuggle (county court) from 1852 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - 17 years
6. Larkin G. Rucker (county court), from 1871 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 16 years.
7. Thomas Clark (circuit court), from 1870 to 1871, - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.

when the amended constitution went into effect, and Larkin G. Rucker, having been elected clerk of the county court, became *ex officio* clerk also of the circuit court, and continues as such to the present time (1887.)



MEMORIAL OF COLONEL SAMUEL STAPLES.

BY HIS GRANDSON, JUDGE SAMUEL G. STAPLES, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

Early in the date of seventeen hundred, two brothers, Samuel and John Staples, immigrated to this country from England, the former settling in some one of the Northern States, the latter locating in Buckingham county, Virginia, where Colonel Samuel Staples, the subject of this sketch, was born, on the 23d day of March, 1762. It was in the spring of the year 1781—the darkest hour in our country's history during her seven years' struggle for independence—when he was barely nineteen years old, that, animated by a sincere love of his country, he succeeded in raising a volunteer company in his native county, which was assigned to that division of the army under General Wayne. He took an active part in the attack made by Wayne,

aided by the French under LaFayette, upon Cornwallis on the 9th of July, 1781, at old Jamestown, by which a severe blow was inflicted, and by which the British commander suffered a heavy loss. He continued in active service until the termination of the battle of Yorktown; was present at the surrender of Cornwallis, and was promoted to the office of major for gallantry on that memorable day. The writer of this article well remembers, many years ago, when a very young man, hearing it related by old men then living, that when the British troops were surrendering their arms a British officer made some offensive remarks about the uncouth appearance presented by the Americans. Captain Staples immediately drew his sword and was about to make an attack upon the officer, when an American officer interfered and informed him that the British officer being then a prisoner of war he was not to be mistreated. Upon the declaration of peace, Colonel Staples, possessed of not a dollar in property except about two thousand dollars in worthless continental money, moved from his native county to Henry, and was soon appointed by Major John Redd, then "high sheriff" of that county, as one of his deputies, and was assigned to that portion of county now Patrick, as his field of operations. It may not be entirely irrelevant to state in this connection that Major Redd entered the continental army in the early stage of the Revolution as a wagon-boy and came out a major, having been raised by regular gradation to that office by long and faithful services in his country's cause. In the year 1791 an act was passed by the legislature forming a new county out of all that portion of the county of Henry now embraced by the limits of the county of Patrick

(giving it the name of Patrick), the two being named after Patrick Henry. The county contains about five hundred square miles, and, as the population was exceedingly sparse at that day, and the country very rough and broken, the duties of a deputy sheriff must have been very laborious and not very profitable. Although the site of the present town of Stuart had been selected as the county seat, still not a house had been built, and when the court convened for the purpose of electing a clerk, constable and other county officers, and recommending a sheriff to be commissioned by the governor, that august tribunal selected a stout log under a large walnut-tree as a county court bench. Under the wide-spreading branches of this venerable denizen of the forest, the formality of the election was gone through with, and resulted in the unanimous choice of Colonel Samuel Staples as clerk of the county court. It may be well imagined that the clerk *pro tem.* made his entries upon a slip of paper resting upon an ancient pair of saddle-bags as a clerk's table, seated on a decayed stump hard by. Although he was opposed by Mr. John Cox, who had acted as deputy clerk of the county court of Henry for several years, and was well qualified to discharge the duties of the office, yet the records show that Mr. Cox did not receive a single vote. It is reported that some year or two afterwards he was present at the courthouse on some county court day, and, on being asked when court would convene, his reply was "whenever they get so drunk they can't stand." The old man, at that time, had probably not recovered from the mortification of his signal defeat. Until the passage of the act of 1808, dividing the State into twelve judicial circuits, there were no circuit superior courts

in existence. The State, soon after the close of the war, had been divided into judicial districts, some central point being selected for holding the district courts. The district court for the district in which Patrick was embraced was held at New London, a very ancient town, situated in the county of Bedford, about twelve miles from the present city of Lynchburg, and distant from the county of Patrick about one hundred miles. It was during the session of one of the district courts held at this place that Patrick Henry delivered his well-remembered "beef speech" during the trial of John Hook. Colonel Staples was in the regular habit of attending this court, and heard Governor Henry deliver that celebrated speech, the effect of which upon the assembled crowd he has often been heard to describe. The first superior court for the county of Patrick, under the provisions of the act of 1808, was held at the present county seat on the 6th day of October, 1809, by Judge Paul Carrington, an able lawyer, of unblemished reputation, who had been a member of and taken a prominent part in the proceedings of the Virginia convention of 1788, convened for the purpose of deliberating on the constitution adopted and recommended by the memorable federal convention of 1787. The records of that term of the court show that Colonel Samuel Staples was appointed its first clerk. The clerks of both the county and superior courts being appointed for life or "during good behavior," Colonel Staples discharged the duties of the two offices continuously, and to the entire satisfaction of both the bar and the country, until May, 1825, when, laboring under a severe attack of paralysis, which incapacitated him from discharging the arduous duties imposed upon him, he

thought it incumbent on him to resign. On the 30th day of December, 1791, he was united in marriage to Lucinda Penn, a lady of rare personal attractions, of sound practical sense, a daughter of Colonel Abram Penn, a legitimate descendant, by a direct line, of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania—a man of eminent virtues; possessed of a strong, controlling sense of religious duty, as well as a fervent desire to promote the happiness of mankind, and of whom Voltaire said: "he was the only man who ever made a treaty with the Indians that was never sworn to and never broken." She was the sister of Colonel George Penn, of Revolutionary memory, who, for several years, represented the senatorial district in the general assembly of Virginia of which Patrick formed a part. He was a member of the senate when the celebrated resolutions of 1798 and 1799, which formed the basis upon which the platform of principles that bore the then republican party, under the leadership of Mr. Jefferson, into power, was erected, were passed, and he bore a prominent part in their discussion and in the procurement of their final passage. He was among the few men who had the honor of receiving a unanimous vote in his district during a canvass of no ordinary activity and excitement. He was one of nine brothers, all men of the highest respectability; of great personal popularity; of acknowledged influence in the community in which they resided—seven of whom filled the offices of justices of the peace during that period of Virginia's history when her magistracy was graced by the first gentlemen of the land—a class of men who, for dignity of character, for unblemished reputation, and for sound judgment, had no superiors during their day and generation. They

filled an office which Mr. Madison and Mr. Monroe, after their retirement from the presidency, did not feel it beneath their dignity to accept and hold until the days of their death. Many of these old justices ("noble old Romans" they were) held the office of justice of the peace and occupied seats upon the county court benches for many consecutive years, receiving no other reward for their long and faithful services than the inadequate price paid them for the farming the sheriffalty, when the office of sheriff was conferred upon them, according to the date of their commissions. They have long since been gathered to their fathers, but they will ever be held in grateful remembrance by all who properly appreciate dignity of character and sterling worth.

The fruits of the marriage of Colonel Samuel Staples and Lucinda Penn were Colonel Abram Staples, who will be the subject of a sketch hereafter to be written; Colonel John C. Staples, who represented his native county in the public councils of the State, a man of cultivated intellect, of jovial temperament, with a heart filled with the milk of human kindness and of unbounded personal popularity. His eldest daughter, Kezia Staples, a woman of rare intellectual endowments, of sound, practical sense, and who, for a number of years, assisted her father in the discharge of his duties as clerk, married Waller Redd, who was, for many years, clerk of both superior and county courts of Henry, a man of great influence and weight of character, whose only daughter is now the surviving widow of the late Hon. William Ballard Preston, and resides at Smithfield, in the county of Montgomery, Virginia, at the old family mansion of the late James Preston, for-

merly governor of Virginia. William Ballard Preston was a man "not unknown to fame," who represented as well his native county (Montgomery) in both branches of the general assembly as his district (as the district then was) in the congress of the United States, who was secretary of the navy under the administration of General Zachary Taylor; a member of the celebrated secession convention of Virginia of 1861, and afterwards a member of the senate of the Confederate States; an able and eminently successful lawyer, and around whose honored name cluster many rich and never-to-be-forgotten associations, both state and national. His youngest daughter, Ruth P. Staples, married James M. Redd, of the county of Henry, who was repeatedly honored by his constituents with a seat in the general assembly of Virginia, who served with credit to himself and with honor to his native county, and one of whose granddaughters is now the accomplished wife of Judge Stafford G. Whittle, the present able and popular judge of the fifth judicial circuit of Virginia. Shortly after Colonel Staples' marriage he commenced the erection of the present large and noted stone mansion now standing at the head of Main street in the present town of Stuart. A large portion of the rock with which the building was constructed was hauled a distance of six miles, and as it contains twelve rooms, and as the walls of the first story are four feet thick, and the house is two stories and a half high, some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the undertaking, more particularly when the sparseness of the population, the scarcity of labor and the difficulty of procuring skilled stone-masons and building materials in that remote region is taken into consideration. Whilst the

mere construction of such a building is a matter of no particular moment, yet it is alluded to more particularly to illustrate one striking trait that characterized Colonel Staples' character, and that was a fixed determination to succeed in whatever he undertook, in spite of all obstacles. When the house was finished it was the subject of wonder and astonishment to the rude and uncultivated people who inhabited that mountainous region, and who probably had never seen or heard of any structure larger than the small, rude log cabins in which they dwelt. It is now owned by Judge Samuel G. Staples, his grandson, and is in the occupancy of his son, D. D. Staples, who is the fourth generation that has dwelt under its roof.

Colonel Samuel Staples was a man of note in his day; of great personal popularity; scrupulously honest in all his dealings; possessed of a clear head, a sound mind and discriminating judgment, who, by dint of industry and perseverance, amassed what was regarded at that day as a large fortune. Whilst he was devotedly attached to his business occupations, and rarely ever permitted them to be neglected for pleasure or pastime, yet he was a great sportsman—fond of fishing and hunting. His skill as a marksman, with his old-fashioned mountain rifle, was the subject of wonder and astonishment with the old hunters of his day. He was passionately fond of entering the list as a contestant for "the quarter of beef" that was usually shot for among the mountaineers of that day, (a diversion kept up still in many parts of the country), and though he rarely ever failed to win, yet he as rarely ever failed to bestow his reward upon some needy man or woman.

Although he was no politician, in the broader sense

of that term, still he usually felt and expressed a deep interest in the political questions of his day, and was a decided republican of the Jeffersonian school. In person he was of full medium height, being near six feet high, with limbs fashioned in nature's finest mould; form erect and commanding; a full forehead, with all the marks of a superior mind and intellect. He had received no training but what his own observation of men and things had produced, but for reflection and strong reasoning powers he was far superior to the class of men by whom he was surrounded, and over whom he always exercised a controlling influence.

After a diligent and faithful service of thirty-one years as clerk of the county and superior courts of the county of Patrick, he was suddenly stricken with paralysis and, after a lingering illness of three years, which he bore with remarkable fortitude and resignation, he quietly passed away, in the sixty-second year of his age, beloved and respected by all who knew him; for it may well and appropriately be said of him—

"None knew him but to love him,
None named him but to praise."

MEMORIAL OF COLONEL ABRAM STAPLES.

BY HIS SON, JUDGE SAMUEL G. STAPLES, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

Colonel Abram P. Staples, son of Colonel Samuel and Lucinda Staples, was born near the present town of Stuart, now the county seat of the county of Patrick, Virginia, on the 9th of March, 1793. During his boyhood he acquired the rudiments of just such an education as was then taught in what was known as "the old field schools of Virginia," at the same time assisting his father, who was then clerk of the court, in the

discharge of the duties of his office. At the age of seventeen he was sent to Chapel Hill, then known as the University of North Carolina, a famous institution of that day, and at this time patronized by a large number of the leading men of the South. While there, the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain broke out, and, fired by patriotism, in the spring of 1812 he returned home, and, in spite of the determined opposition of his father, raised a volunteer rifle company, and in the summer of that year marched to Norfolk and joined the American forces assembled there, under the command of General Robert B. Taylor. His company was stationed on Craney Island, a low, flat and bare island at the mouth of Elizabeth river, about five miles below Norfolk, commanding the inward approach from Hampton Roads, and on its successful defence depended the safety of the borough as well as of Portsmouth and the surrounding country. While there, he assisted in that noble and gallant repulse of the British under the command of the notorious but infamous Admiral Cockburn, whose mission (as he declared) was to lay waste the country, burn, pillage and destroy property, both public and private, and whose boast was that "he intended to chastise the Americans into submission." On the 22d day of January, 1813, he entered Hampton Roads with an imposing and formidable array of about twenty vessels, consisting of fourteen frigates and transports, and with an armed force of four thousand men. The American army consisted of four hundred militia, one company of light infantry and a detachment of thirty men sent from Norfolk by General Taylor. While attempting to go up to that city he landed about

twenty-six hundred men on the island, and made an attack on the Americans under the immediate command of Major Faulkner, a gallant and meritorious officer, and was most signally repulsed, with a loss of four hundred men in killed and wounded, while the loss of the Americans did not exceed thirty. The manner in which the defence was conducted, with a vastly inferior force, reflected lasting honor upon the gallant band of heroes who took part in that important action, as well as upon the country at large. The cool deliberation and mature judgment, the bravery and enthusiasm, which was so strikingly manifested on the occasion by our comparatively small force, and the complete success of the day, all united to render the battle one of the most decisive and victorious that occurred during the war. In General Robert B. Taylor's report to the secretary of war of this engagement he used the following language: "The courage and constancy with which the inferior force, in the face of a formidable naval armament, not only sustained a position on which no defence was complete, but repulsed the enemy with considerable loss, cannot fail to command the approbation of the government and the applause of the country. It has infused in the residue of the army a general spirit of competition, the beneficial effects of which will, I trust, be displayed in our future combats."

The writer of this article read, some years ago, a letter addressed by General Taylor to Captain Staples complimenting him and speaking in high terms of the gallantry his company displayed on that occasion. This company—a rifle company, consisting of sixty men "rank and file"—was composed of brave, hardy mountaineers, such as they were in those days, inured

to hardships and privations, and accustomed to the use of the old-fashioned, long-bored rifle, with which they were armed. The only uniform with which they were clad was the "hunting-shirt," made of blue domestic jeans with a frill around the edges, and pants of the same color and material. But being backwoodsmen, trained to the use of fire-arms, accustomed to formidable encounters with the bears and other wild animals with which their native county then abounded, not knowing what fear was, and entertaining the opinion that no man was entitled to the slightest claims to marksmanship who could not, on all occasions, with his rifle knock out the eye of a squirrel in the top of the tallest trees with which the forest abounded without touching his body, they did fearful execution upon the enemy.

Upon the declaration of peace, Captain Staples returned to his native county, and was soon after elected a member of the general assembly, and was re-elected every successive year for a period of eight years. He was appointed on the committee to invite General LaFayette to a public dinner tendered by the legislature in the winter of 1824, during his memorable visit to the United States, the first he made after the close of the Revolutionary war. As is well known the invitation was accepted, and the legislature, in order to render the occasion one that would not only do honor to the illustrious guest but reflect credit upon the Old Dominion, appropriated a very large amount for that purpose. The character of the entertainment, with all its surroundings, the number of illustrious men and lovely women who graced the occasion with their presence, added to the exalted character of the guest, made it an occasion long to be remembered.

During the canvass in the succeeding spring Captain Staples encountered considerable opposition, growing out of his vote for what was regarded as an extravagant appropriation to the dinner. During the delivery of a speech on one occasion, in which he was justifying his vote upon the ground of the great services rendered by General LaFayette to the colonies during their protracted struggle for independence, he was answered by an old hunter, leaning upon his rifle, with the remark that, if General LaFayette had come to his house he would have given him a good dinner of bacon and greens and jowl and turnips for twenty-five cents. In spite, however, of the old hunter's opposition he was re-elected by a very decided majority.

During his protracted legislative career he took a prominent part in the debates and proceedings of that body, and was uniformly appointed on its most important standing committees.

His father having died in March, 1825, and a vacancy existing in both the offices of clerk of the county and superior courts, he was elected by the justices of the county court its clerk, and at the May term of the circuit superior court he was appointed by Judge Fleming Saunders clerk of that court. Having determined to accept these offices, he resigned his seat in the general assembly.

Those well versed in the political history of the country will not fail to call to mind the fact that the presidential canvass of 1824 was one of intense excitement and of no ordinary bitterness. The second term of the administration of Mr. Monroe was about to expire —an administration characterized by an almost entire cessation of party strife, during which the tone of

political debate was far more moderate. Few of the criminations and recriminations which had been the fashion in the past were uttered—old political animosities were forgotten, and it was universally characterized as "the era of good feeling." It being well understood that in obedience to the "unwritten law" established by the example of General Washington, Mr. Monroe, having filled the presidential chair for a period of eight years, would under no circumstances be a candidate for re-election, the friends of the various aspirants for the presidency began to prefer the claims of their favorites to that high office—among whom was John Quincy Adams, who had been minister to the Russian and Prussian courts, who had been twice appointed on a commission, first under a proposed mediation by Russia, and secondly at the treaty of Ghent to settle terms of peace with Great Britain, who was secretary of state under Mr. Monroe, and afterward for a number of years a member of Congress from Massachusetts; William H. Crawford, of Georgia, who had been appointed minister to France by Mr. Madison, and afterwards secretary of the treasury under Mr. Monroe: Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, who was one of the first representatives of that state in the lower house of Congress after its admission into the Union, was a member of the United States senate and judge of the supreme court of his adopted state; Henry Clay, of Kentucky, who had been twice elected speaker of the house of representatives of the United States, was one of the commissioners who settled the terms of the treaty of peace with Great Britain at Ghent, had been a member of both houses of the general assembly of his adopted state, and for many years represented that

state in the United States senate. Colonel Staples was appointed one of the Adams electors, and sustained the claims of his candidate with all the ability he possessed. The result of the vote in the electoral college was eighty-four votes for Adams, ninety-nine for Jackson, forty-one for Crawford, including Virginia, and thirty-seven for Clay. Neither candidate having received the constitutional majority, the election was (as is well known) thrown into the house of representatives and resulted in the final choice of Mr. Adams. Colonel Staples was a decided federalist in principle—a uniform and determined opponent of all the leading measures of General Jackson's administration, with the exception of his course in the memorable nullification controversy with South Carolina, which he heartily endorsed.

The approaching election for members of Congress began at this time to engross public attention, and he was warmly urged by his friends to accept a nomination as a candidate; but having qualified as clerk of the superior and county courts of Patrick, and the settlement of his father's large estate requiring his constant attention, he felt himself impelled by these considerations to decline. He held the clerkship of the two courts until the first election and appointment that took place after the ratification of the amended constitution of 1829–30, when he was unanimously re-elected by the county court and re-appointed by the judge of the superior court without opposition. From that time until the spring of 1844 he filled the two offices continuously with great acceptability, when he resigned that of the superior court, but continued to hold that of the county court until after the ratification

of the amended constitution of 1851–2, when, in consequence of age and bodily infirmity, he declined a re-election. He was succeeded in the office of clerk of the circuit court by his son, Judge Samuel G. Staples, now temporarily residing in the city of Washington.

Upon the death of his father, who had for many years been colonel of the regiment in his county, he was recommended by the county court of Patrick as his father's successor, and duly commissioned by the then governor of Virginia, John Floyd the elder. At that time, and for many years previously, the field offices of the militia were eagerly sought for by the "first families of Virginia," and as they were recommended by the county court and commissioned by the governor, none but men of the highest standing in the community were recommended. The then existing militia system was in high vogue with the people of Virginia. The field and subordinate officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned, were trained for three days every spring, the fourth day being the greatest day of all, when all the militia of the county were required to assemble at the courthouse and a grand military review was held. "The training of the officers" was looked forward to by the belles and beaux of the country with intense interest, on which occasion they would assemble in great numbers and keep up a continued scene of frollicking and dancing. The officers were required to be trained by a brigade inspector, one of whom was appointed by the governor for each designated brigade, and was required to drill the officers in military tactics. The writer of this article well remembers Major Leftwich, of Bedford, General David Rodes and Major John Norvell, of Lynchburg, as

brigade inspectors in the district of which Patrick formed a part. The latter, Major Norvell, usually carried with him during his tour of inspection a noted fifer, "Blind Billy," who was well known about Lynchburg and throughout many parts of Virginia, and any skillful drummer he could procure. He was passionately fond of military display, and as Colonel Staples, who had during his military experience in Norfolk become a well-drilled officer, and had of course provided himself with a suitable military outfit, the effect produced by those two officers upon the assembled crowd at Patrick courthouse was overwhelming.

Few men who ever lived in that portion of Virginia of which Patrick county forms a part ever filled a larger space in the public eye than Colonel Abram Staples. By the uniform practice of economy, by dint of sound, practical sense, as well as great judgment, he succeeded in amassing a large fortune. Whilst one of the secrets of his success in the accumulation of an estate was a strict conformity with the old adage, which he often quoted, "take care of the small sums and the large sums will take care of themselves," yet when occasion required it his liberality in the use of his money for the promotion of the comfort and convenience of his family and the dispensation of charity, was unbounded. One of his marked characteristics was a kind and appreciative concern for the welfare of the people among whom he had been raised, and who had uniformly conferred upon him every office to which he aspired. As an evidence of this trait, it may not be inappropriate to mention the fact that, having debts due him amounting to a very large sum, he took care, in framing his will, to provide that suits were not to be instituted on

his bonds until after the lapse of two years from the date of his death. He had a decided literary turn of mind: was fond of reading and, during his legislative career, he collected what was regarded as a good private library for his day, filled with standard works both historical and miscellaneous. He possessed, in the highest degree, the qualities of a decision of character and inflexible purpose. His ambition was moderate, and the success he had attained in life seemed fully to answer all his expectations. No one was more upright or affectionate in his domestic relations or discharged with greater zest the duties of friendship and hospitality. His frank and cordial manner, his fondness for the society of friends, his relish for the pleasures of conversation, in which he bore his part with good sense and well-timed anecdote, naturally attracted the strong regard of those with whom he was intimate.

In person he was tall and commanding, with a stout, muscular frame; form and features indicating manly firmness and intellectual vigor. His manners were easy, naturally graceful and gentlemanly, presenting the appearance and bearing of a man of superior mind and natural talents of a high order, born to lead among men and to command the respect of the community in which he dwelt. In the spring of 1853 he was suddenly prostrated by an attack of paralysis from which he never recovered. During his protracted illness of three years he made a profession of religion, and, after bearing his sufferings with great patience and Christian resignation, he, on the 26th day of April, 1856, quietly passed away, and entered upon his eternal rest in the upper and better world.

PETERSBURG CITY.

The clerks of the corporation or hustings court have been:

1. John Grammer, from 1784 to 1835, - - 51 years.
2. David M. Bernard, from 1835 to 1859, - 24 years.
3. John C. Armistead, from 1859 to 1888, 29 years.

CLERKS OF THE HUSTINGS COURT OF PETERSBURG, FROM 1784 TO 1888.

The corporation or hustings court of Petersburg is noteworthy, in that its clerkship, for the long period of one hundred and three years and nine months, including the brief period of about sixteen months when clerks *pro tempore* and military appointees filled the office, was held by only three persons, one of whom held the place for more than fifty-one years. This gentleman was John Grammer.

As stated by Rev. Phillip Slaughter in his "History of Bristol Parish," John Gammer, the first clerk of the hustings court of the city of Petersburg, was born August 24, 1754, at Blackwater, Prince George county, Virginia. Accordingly, when he qualified to the office of clerk, on the second day of September, 1784, he had just entered his thirty-first year. In October, 1835, when he died, he had reached the ripe age of eighty-one years, and had devoted over a half century to the public service. He is still well remembered by many of the old citizens of Petersburg as an elderly gentleman, quick in movement, small in stature, and wearing the knee breeches and shoe buckles of the olden time.

In manners he was brusque and very plain spoken, but no one could know him, even very slightly, without having the highest respect for his thorough honesty and goodness of heart. Mr. Slaughter, in his work above mentioned, states that Mr. Grammer was the first postmaster of Petersburg, and was "a pillar of the church in Bristol parish when it seemed tottering to its fall." In his political opinions he was a federalist. With the views of Mr. Jefferson he had no sympathy.

Among his children was the well-known Mrs. Dolly Walker, Dorothea Grammer, the widow of Dr. David Walker, of whom Mr. Slaughter in the same book says: "She was full of good works and ever the almoner of the needy. She is canonized in the hearts of all who knew and survive her." Another of his children was the Rev. John Grammer, of Halifax, the father of the Rev. Dr. James Grammer, of Fauquier county, Virginia. The late Dr. Thomas Withers, of Petersburg, fitly designated by Mr. Slaughter as the "father of the fatherless" and the "widows' friend," and his brother, the Rev. Edmund Withers, were both grandsons of the old clerk, and several others of his descendants became the wives of ministers of the gospel.

Referring to the old clerk and his good wife, Bishop Meade, in his "Old Churches and Families of Virginia," says: "Of old Mr. and Mrs. Grammer, on whom for a considerable time, by general consent, the very existence of the Episcopal church in Petersburg seemed to hang, I need not speak, or seek for any epitaph. They live in the hearts of children and children's children yet alive, and in the memories of many others who revere their character and endeavor to follow their example. The social prayer-meetings held at their house

when the old lady was unable any longer to go to the house of God, were refreshing seasons to ministers and people."

The next and second clerk of the hustings court of Petersburg was David Meade Bernard. The subject of this sketch was born on the 24th day of April, 1813, in the county of King George, and died on the 8th day of February, 1884, in the county of Orange, Virginia. From September, 1828, when a lad of fifteen, he entered the clerk's office of Brunswick county, as the deputy of the elder Robert Turnbull, till October, 1859, when he resigned the clerkship of the corporation court of Petersburg, he was in the service of the commonwealth discharging the important and responsible duties attaching to the office of clerk of a court. Coming directly from the clerk's office of Brunswick to that of Petersburg in May, 1830, he entered the latter office as the deputy of Mr. John Grammer, who was the first clerk of the hustings court of the town of Petersburg, and as such had held office since 1784, in which year this court was first established. In 1835, after an honorable service of more than fifty years, Mr. Grammer died, and his young deputy, then only twenty-two years of age, was appointed his successor. Entering upon the duties of the office after a training of some seven years, possessed, as he was, of a mind naturally clear and strong, and which he had been improving by a course of study and reading looking to his entering the profession of law, he soon became one of the most accomplished clerks in the commonwealth. In this connection it may be well to mention that David M. Bernard was descended on both sides from those who

were clerks. His paternal grandfather, Richard Bernard, was the clerk of Westmoreland county from 1777 to the date of his death in 1785, whilst on his mother's side he was a lineal descendant of Colonel Drury Stith, the first clerk of Brunswick county. It was not, then, strange that he developed the capacity which, under his training, made him the superior officer that he was.

In 1852, when the first popular election for clerks and other officers under the constitution of 1851 was held, Mr. Bernard was a candidate for election to the office he had for so many years filled, and was elected without opposition. At the next election—that held in 1858—he was again a candidate for the office, and was again elected without opposition. In 1859, finding his health failing, and desiring to carry out a long-cherished desire to lead the life of a farmer, Mr. Bernard purchased a farm in Orange county, Virginia, resigned his office and removed to that county with his family.

The proceedings in the hustings court of Petersburg when he tendered, and the court accepted, his resignation as its clerk, as reported in the Petersburg *Express* of October 21, 1859, may be properly reproduced here. Having previously mentioned the meeting of the court on the first day of its October term, 1859, that journal said:

"The chief business of general interest to the public was the reception of the resignation of D. M. Bernard, Esq., who, since October, 1835, has discharged the duties of clerk with an ability and satisfaction which are best attested by the long period he has filled the office—reaching as it does nearly a quarter of a century. The resignation was couched in terms singularly felicitous, as will be seen by a copy hereto annexed:

'*To the Justices of the Hustings Court of Petersburg:*

'GENTLEMEN:—I hereby offer you my resignation of the clerkship of this court. I am induced to do so by impaired health and the partial paralysis of my right hand.

'In taking leave of this court, I trust that no assurances are necessary to satisfy it of my high regard or of my grateful remembrance of the uniform kindness and respectful consideration which it has always manifested towards me. Twenty-four years have now elapsed since my first election, and whilst in that period I have committed, no doubt, many errors, and have oftentimes stood in need of the patience and indulgence of the court, it has been my good fortune during the whole time to hear from the bench no words of complaint, and only those of confidence and encouragement. The recollection of this will be a source of pleasure to me as long as I live, and I shall regard the fact as bearing witness, along with my own conscience, that I have discharged my duty to the best of my ability.

'With the sincerest wishes for the continued usefulness of the court, and for the happiness of its members, as my personal friends, I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant, D. M. BERNARD.'

"Alexander Donnan, Esq., offered a series of resolutions highly complimentary to the retiring officer, and embraced the occasion to submit a few feeling and appropriate remarks in advocacy thereof, and laudatory of the late clerk. A. C. Butts, Esq., R. G. Pegram, Esq., attorney for the commonwealth, Thomas Wallace and John Lyon, Esqs., followed in brief but eloquent speeches, when the resolutions were unanimously adopted, ordered to be spread upon the minutes of the

court, published in the city papers, and a copy furnished to Mr. Bernard."

The resolutions adopted were as follows:

"At a hustings court held for the city of Petersburg, at the courthouse thereof, on Thursday, October 20th, 1859—

"D. M. Bernard, the clerk of this court, this day resigned his said office as clerk, which was accepted, and thereupon the following preamble and resolutions, in respect to the said Bernard, were unanimously adopted by the court, and the bar and officers, viz.:

"Whereas, this court and the members of the bar practicing in the hustings court of the city of Petersburg, Virginia, and the officers of said court have learnt with sorrow that David Meade Bernard has resigned the office as clerk of said court, having held the same with marked distinction to himself and satisfaction to this entire community since the 16th day of October, A. D. 1835, and that he proposes removing to another section of the State, to engage in other pursuits: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That we sincerely regret that the said Bernard has felt constrained, from a sense of duty to himself and family, to resign the said office.

"*Resolved*, That in the resignation of D. M. Bernard, the court, the bar and the public have lost a wise counsellor and an upright officer, whose place cannot easily be filled.

"*Resolved*, That we truly believe our city has lost one of its best inhabitants.

"*Resolved*, That we tender him our grateful acknowledgments for the very many kindnesses and attentions

which we have received at his hands as an officer and a man.

"*Resolved*, That we cordially commend him to the esteem, affection and confidence of the people in the bosom of whom he proposes to make his new home.

"*Resolved*, That we sincerely wish him every success the heart of man could desire, and a happiness and prosperity commensurate with his deserts.

"*Resolved*, That the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of our court and published in the city papers, and a copy furnished the said Bernard.

"A copy—teste:

"E. M. MANN, *Clerk, pro tem.*"

The resolutions which were adopted on the occasion of his severing his connection with the court and its officers, and the contemporary newspaper notice of the proceedings, show the high esteem in which the subject of this sketch was held. At that time there were few men, if any, in the city so generally popular as was Mr. Bernard. Courteous to all, honorable and upright, his twenty-odd years of official life among the people of Petersburg had won for him universal respect. Having removed to the county of Orange, he there passed the remainder of his life in the quiet pursuit of a tiller of the soil.

In its notice of his death, a Petersburg paper of February 9, 1884, (the *Mail*), said: "He resided a great many years in Petersburg, where he was well and widely known, and was greatly beloved and honored. * * * He was a man of singularly pure and upright character, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his death will be regretted by a large circle of friends." The local paper of his county, the Gordonsville *Gazette*,

in its notice of his death, said: "David Meade Bernard, Esq., died at his home near Madison run, in this county, last Friday night. Mr. Bernard came to Orange from Petersburg in 1859, where for many years he had been clerk of the hustings court. He was a gentleman of pleasing address, of much intelligence, and of the highest character, and the death of such a man is a loss to any community."

Mr. Bernard was thrice married, and left surviving him a wife and several children. When he passed away there was removed a typical Virginia gentleman, one of the old school, and one who may be well pointed to as a fair specimen of the superior material whereof the old clerks of this commonwealth were generally made. Among his children is a son bearing his name, the present judge of the hustings court of Petersburg.

The next and third clerk of the hustings court of Petersburg was John Clayton Armistead. This gentleman who has recently put off the robes of office after a continued service of more than thirty-eight years in the clerk's offices of Prince George and Petersburg —excepting a short period of about nine months during the era of reconstruction, when he was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession—was born in the city of Petersburg, Virginia, November 21, 1835. In January, 1850, when barely fourteen years of age, he entered the clerk's office of Prince George county as the deputy of the elder Robert Gilliam, the then clerk of the courts of the county. In August, 1854, he left the clerk's office of Prince George to enter the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Petersburg, as the deputy of Edmund Pendleton Gaines, then the clerk.

Upon the resignation of David M. Bernard, in October, 1859, of the clerkship of the corporation court of Petersburg, young Armistead was elected by the people his successor, and continued to hold the office until the 4th of June, 1888, except during the period of reconstruction, when it was held by military appointees. On this day he resigned the office and turned over to his successor its records and papers.

The military appointees were Benjamin S. Burch and Thomas L. Davis. Mr. Burch having been appointed in December, 1868, by General Stoneman, the commandant of the military district of Virginia, qualified as clerk March 22, 1869, and at the same time Mr. Armistead, having been removed by a military order, qualified as the deputy of his military successor, and so continued until General Canby, then the commandant of the district, removed Burch and appointed Mr. Davis in his place. Davis qualified March 22, 1869, and Mr. Armistead, then leaving the clerk's office, began the practice of law in the city of Petersburg, which he continued until April 21, 1870, when Judge E. M. Mann duly appointed him to the office, making the appointment under the act of assembly of March 5, 1870, known as "the enabling act."

There were few, if any, clerks in the commonwealth who more thoroughly understood the details of the clerk's office than did Mr. Armistead. For many years his reputation has been that of an accomplished and efficient officer, without a superior in the state. At the recent election, in May, 1888, however, along with all of the other old officers of the city, Mr. Armistead was defeated and relegated to the people, with a consciousness of having left a record of duty faithfully

performed. For several years Mr. Armistead took an active part in Masonic affairs, was master of Blandford Lodge, No. 3, from June, 1874, to June, 1875, was subsequently district deputy grand master for the ninth Masonic district of Virginia, and was also grand junior deacon of the grand lodge of Virginia. He declined further promotion. For a short time, whilst under age, he held the office of clerk *pro tempore* of the circuit court of the city of Petersburg. His appointment to the place by Hon. John W. Nash, the presiding judge, was a high compliment in view of the importance of the office.

The next and fourth clerk of the hustings court of Petersburg was George Mason. This gentleman held the office of clerk of the hustings court of the city of Petersburg but a short time—less than a month. He was appointed on the 4th day of June, 1888, by Judge D. M. Bernard, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. J. C. Armistead, who resigned his office on that day. Mr. Mason was born July 4th, 1853, in Sussex county, Virginia. His father was John T. J. Mason, who for nearly forty years was the able and popular clerk of the circuit court of that county. Having spent two years in the study of his profession at the University of Virginia, the subject of this sketch was admitted to the bar in November, 1874, in his native county. In 1877 he removed to the county of Chesterfield, and there at once acquired a profitable practice, which he deservedly still holds, having subsequently, in 1882, removed to the city of Petersburg. Mr. Mason stands well as a lawyer, and had he continued in office he would doubtless have most worthily filled the place so well filled by his predecessors.

The next and fifth clerk of the corporation court of Petersburg is the present incumbent, Robert Gilliam. Like his immediate predecessor, this gentleman is the son of an old clerk, Robert Gilliam, for many years the clerk of the courts of Prince George county, Virginia, and was born in that county on the 27th of January, 1847. When the late war began, the subject of this sketch was too young to enter the military service. In 1862, however, when only fifteen years of age, he received the appointment of messenger in the Confederate States treasury at Richmond. The following year he was promoted to a clerkship in this department of the Confederate States government, and continued to hold the position till the close of the war. In 1864 he saw some active military service as a member of the departmental battalion, organized for the local defence of Richmond, in this capacity participating in the action with Dahlgren's raiders on the Westham plank road near that city.

In June, 1866, young Gilliam became the deputy of his father, then the clerk of the circuit and county courts of Prince George. In 1869 General Schofield, the commandant of this military district, removed his father from office and appointed him to fill the vacant clerkship. As the military appointee Mr. Gilliam held the office until, under "the enabling act" of March 5, 1870, Hon. Peter P. Batte, judge of the county court, duly appointed him to fill the same. At the regular election held in November, 1870, he was elected over his republican opponent by a large majority. In 1874 Mr. Gilliam resigned his office, came to Petersburg and commenced the study of law. In 1877 he was appointed by the late Judge E. M. Mann, of the hustings

court, to the office of high constable of the city of Petersburg, and held the office for about six months, after which he entered upon the practice of his profession.

In 1884 Mr. Gilliam was a member of the electoral board of the city of Petersburg. In 1886 he was elected to the common council of Petersburg, and was serving out a four years term when he was elected to his present office over the old incumbent, Mr. John C. Armistead. In 1887 he was chosen a member of the board of directors of the Central lunatic asylum. All of these positions of public trust Mr. Gilliam has filled with credit to himself and with satisfaction to the public. As a lawyer he stood well, enjoying the confidence of all with whom he dealt. That he will worthily and acceptably fill the office of clerk of the courts of Petersburg, none who know him will doubt.

CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT OF PETERSBURG.

The first clerk of the circuit superior court of Petersburg was Walker Crutchfield, who qualified May 16, 1820, and held office until his death in 1823, or early in January, 1824. On the 23d of January, 1824, his successor, who was Patrick Hendren, qualified. The last mentioned gentleman died in 1827, and was succeeded by Henry Beverly Gaines, who qualified August 7, 1827, having been deputy clerk since the establishment of the court in 1820. When, by the act of assembly of April 16, 1831, the "circuit superior courts of law and chancery" were established, Mr. Gaines was appointed and qualified as the first clerk of the circuit superior court of law and chancery for the town of Petersburg, and so continued until, by the code of 1849,

"circuit courts" were established, when he was appointed and duly qualified as the clerk of the circuit court of the town of Petersburg.

When the office became elective under the constitution of 1851, the subject of this sketch was elected its first incumbent, but died in 1852, soon after his election. His successor in the office was Edmund Pendleton Gaines, his son, who qualified November 5, 1852, but held the office less than three years, resigning on the 25th of April, 1855. The vacant clerkship was temporarily filled by the appointment of John C. Armistead, as clerk *pro tempore*, Mr. Armistead being then under age. The successor of Edmund Pendleton Gaines was Bartlett P. Todd, who qualified on the 12th day of June, 1855, and held the office until the date of his death in the winter of 1862–3.

The successor of Colonel Todd was Edwin Murray Mann. The subject of this sketch was born on the 22d day of April, 1840, in the old city of Williamsburg, Virginia, where his father, John Mann, for many years the clerk of the county court of James City county, resided. Having previously attended school in the place of his nativity, and in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1857, when a mere lad he came to the city of Petersburg, where each of his elder brothers, Robert H. Mann, John Mann and Moreau B. Mann, had, during the preceding ten or twelve years, served their apprenticeship in the clerks' offices of that city, and entered the clerk's office of the hustings court as deputy of David M. Bernard, its then clerk. Here he remained a couple of years. In October, 1859, Mr. Bernard resigned, and, such was the confidence that the court had in his young deputy, it gave him the appointment of

clerk *pro tempore*, although he was only nineteen years of age. In December, 1859, Mr. John C. Armistead having been elected by the people to fill the office made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Bernard, young Edwin M. Mann became his deputy. In January, 1860, he resigned this position, and accepted a like position under Colonel Bartlett P. Tood, the clerk of the circuit court of Petersburg. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Mann, then a non-commissioned officer in the Petersburg Riflemen, one of the crack military companies of the day, went into the war with all the enthusiasm of his youth, and was in the military service of the Confederate States as a member of this company and as ordinance-sergeant of the Twelfth Virginia regiment of infantry until February, 1863, when he was appointed clerk *pro tempore* of the circuit court of Petersburg to fill the vacancy created by the death of Col. Todd. At an election by the people subsequently held he was duly elected to the office, which he held until the spring of 1869, when he was removed from office by the military commandant of the district of Virginia. Being out of office, Mr. Mann gave his whole attention to the practice of law, being now free to practice in all of the courts of the city, and was rising to prominence and success in his profession when, in April, 1870, he was elected by the general assembly the first judge of the corporation of Petersburg, a position he filled with honor to himself and to the satisfaction of the public for a period of more than fifteen years, until his death on the 3d of October, 1885.

In its issue of October 5, 1885, the Petersburg *Index-Appeal*, commenting upon his death, said: "Among the judges of the commonwealth the deceased stood

among the foremost. His opinions were always well considered, rendered only after the most careful investigation. His clear and strong sense of right—of justice—aided by a vigorous intellect, well stored with the learning of his profession, eminently fitted him for the judicial office, and there was not a judge in the country who wore the ermine with more real dignity. No judge presided on the bench with more grace of manner than did Judge Mann. As an evidence of the learning and capacity of the deceased, his record in the appellate court of the commonwealth is one which gives him title to fame. In the fifteen years that he held the office of corporation judge of the city of Petersburg, although his decisions were often carried to the supreme court of appeals for review, with, we believe, one single exception, they were invariably pronounced correct, and were affirmed."

On the day following his death, a Sabbath, the members of the bar and officers of his court met in the court-room in which he had so recently presided in the full vigor of life, and, after many feeling and eloquent tributes to his memory, adopted appropriate resolutions eulogistic of him. In presenting these resolutions to the court, Mr. Alexander Donnan, the oldest member of the bar, said: "'Tis with the sincerest sorrow that I present this paper to ask your honor to spread it on the records of this court. For about fifteen years Edwin M. Mann has been known to us most intimately as the urbane gentleman, the good citizen and the faithful, impartial, intelligent and independent judge of this court. Great and delicate questions, involving the liberty and the life and property of the citizens, have been committed to his hands, and in all these questions he

has brought into his decisions a clear head and an honest purpose, and no man can rise up and say he has ever moved from the upright course or even wavered from the path that duty and uprightness called him to walk in."

Judge Mann was one of the most genial of men—one of the most agreeable of companions. Although upon the bench the very personification of judicial dignity, in the private circle he was ever ready to recount a humorous story or to entertain with some sparkling witticism.

The successor of Judge Mann in the office of clerk of the circuit court of Petersburg was Thomas L. Davis, a military appointee, who held the position from the date of his appointment in the spring of 1869 until May 3, 1870, when Mr. John C. Armistead, the clerk of the hustings court of Petersburg, *ex-officio* became the clerk of the circuit court. Since this date all of the clerks of the hustings court of this city have been *ex-officio* clerks of the circuit court.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY.

Pittsylvania was formed in 1767 from Halifax. The clerks have been:

1. William Tunstall, Sr., from 1767 to 1791, 24 years.
2. William Tunstall, Jr., from 1791 to 1836, 45 years.
3. William H. Tunstall, from 1836 to 1852, 16 years.

☞ All accounts agree that the Tunstalls were admirable clerks, respected and beloved by the people.

4. Langhorne Scruggs, from 1852 to 1869, 17 years.
When he was removed by military authority, and George Payne appointed in his place, but Mr. Scruggs conducted the office for him until January, 1871, when he again took charge of the office, having been elected in November, 1870, and held it until July 1st, 1875, 4 years. declining to run for the office, which he could have held as long as he desired to do so. The total length of his service was twenty-one years. He also was an admirable clerk, wrote a good hand, was polite and courteous in his manner. He is now practicing law.
5. H. P. Jones, from 1875 to 1879, - - - 4 years.
6. William B. Shepherd, from 1879 to 1887, 8 years.
And was re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

JUDGE WM. M. TREDWAY'S SKETCH OF WILLIAM TUNSTALL AND HIS SON, WILLIAM H. TUNSTALL.

My first acquaintance with Mr. William Tunstall was in 1830. He was then clerk of the county court and circuit superior court of law and chancery of Pittsylvania. Although advanced in life, he personally and faithfully superintended the business of the offices, much of which was done by his son, William H. Tunstall, who was deputy, and succeeded him in the office. In his official as in his private business, he was a model of fidelity and accuracy; and no man of his day commanded more respect and confidence in all respects. He was of medium size, with a benignant, intelligent face; unpretending in manners, always calm, and re-

markable for neatness and good taste in dress. After the death of Mr. Tunstall, his son, William H., was clerk of both courts until he removed to Mississippi. No county could boast of more faithful, honorable and capable clerks. William Tunstall died in 1838, leaving two sons, William H. Tunstall and Whitmell P. Tunstall, the last of whom was the patron of the bill to incorporate the Richmond and Danville railroad, and its first president; another son, Thomas, died before his father. He also left two daughters, one of whom married Colonel George Townes, and another married Samuel Tunstall, Esq.; still another daughter married Dr. Anderson, and removed to Texas. Mrs. Rives, widow of Dr. B. Rives, and Mrs. Rison, wife of Colonel Rison, of Danville, are the only grandchildren living in Pittsylvania.

POWHATAN COUNTY.

Powhatan was formed in 1777 from Cumberland, and has had a succession of skillful and useful clerks:

1. Thomas Miller, from 1777 to 1786, - - 11 years.

☞ According to tradition, a fine clerk and a fine gentleman, a lawyer by profession, and a large land-holder, all of which was bequeathed to his oldest son, Thomas Miller, who represented the county many years in the house of delegates. His grandson, Thomas M. Miller, is the present member (1887).

2. Abner Crump, from 1786 to 1802, - - 16 years.
   ☞ He was an officer of the Revolution, (a colonel), and a member of the Society of the Cincinnatti, of which General George Washington was the first president. He had the reputation of being a good clerk; kept the office at his residence, eight miles from the court-house.
3. James Poindexter, from 1802 to 1816, - 14 years.
   ☞ He was the brother of Parke Poindexter, the old clerk of Chesterfield county; the beau ideal of an "old Virginia gentleman" in character, bearing and personal appearance.
4. William S. Dance, from 1816 to 1858, - 42 years.
   ☞ He had been deputy in the office of Parke Poindexter, clerk of Chesterfield, and was therefore a well-trained clerk before he came to Powhatan. After James Poindexter's death in 1816, William S. Dance was unanimously elected clerk of Powhatan, and continued to hold the office for forty-two years. Under all the changes in our constitution during that period, he held the office without opposition—being appointed by the court until 1851-2, and afterwards unanimously elected by the people until his death. He filled as fully the old-fashioned standard of a perfect Virginia clerk, and is as well worthy a "memo-

rial" as any who ever held the office. In the first place, he was a gentleman of the highest style of character and the most spotless principles. He was exact and scrupulous in the conduct of his office, but withal courteous, accommodating and polite. He was also a first-class statute lawyer, always able to advise the court, which, in almost all cases, deferred to his opinions. The justices composing the county courts of that day (which had general jurisdiction in cases both of law and equity) were themselves, almost without exception, men of intelligence and high character; and it is a matter of history that fewer of their decisions were reversed by the court of appeals than of the circuit superior courts of law and chancery. These justices relied a good deal upon the advice of such clerks as William S. Dance.

5. Dr. Powhatan S. Dance, from 1858 to 1859, - - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.

☞ He was appointed to fill out the term of his father, William S. Dance, and was succeeded by

6. Major R. F. Graves, from 1859 to 1865, 6 years.

☞ He had been trained as deputy in the office of William S. Dance, and was worthy of such a preceptor. He continued to hold the office until removed by military authority in 1865.

He was succeeded by two yankee carpet-baggers, named Maddox, father and son—men without character or qualifications, and whose names would not be included in this list of worthy and honored clerks of Powhatan except to preserve the historical connection. They were succeeded, after the adoption of the new constitution, by

7. Dr. A. S. Mayo, from 1871 to 1886, - - 15 years.
8. Willis B. Smith, from 1886 to 1887, - - 1 year.

☞ A grandson of William S. Dance, and appointed *pro tempore* to fill out A. S. Mayo's unexpired term.

Wm. S. Dance C.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

Prince Edward was formed from Amelia in 1753. The clerks have been:

1. John Le Neve, from 1754 to 1783, - - 29 years.
2. Francis Watkins,* from 1783 to 1816, - 33 years.

* Francis Watkins, besides being noted in his day for his intelligence and skill as a clerk, was distinguished in his descendants; his son, Henry E. Watkins, holding a high rank as a man of ability; and who represented the county of Prince Edward in the legislature of Virginia for many years. His grandson, the late Francis N. Watkins, was also a man of the highest character. He, too, represented the county in the legislature; was, at the time of his death in 1885, and had been for many years, secretary and treasurer of Union Theological Seminary; was also at one time judge of the county court of Prince Edward, and president of the Commercial Bank of Farmville, besides filling other places of trust and honor, the duties of all which he discharged with ability and general acceptance.

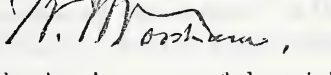
3. Branch J. Worsham, from 1816 to 1869, 53 years.
   ☞ See sketch of him below, and autograph—his last official act.
4. Joseph Jorgerson, from 1869 to 1870, - 1 year.
5. H. R. Hooper, from 1870 to 1887, - - 17 years.

BRANCH JONES WORSHAM.

We have here the name of one of the most illustrious of Prince Edward's sons. He did not excite the huzzahs of the multitude or dazzle the world with rhetorical brilliancy, but in the quiet walks of every-day life he impressed himself as decidedly upon the day in which he lived as did any man it has been our privilege to know. Mr. Worsham was born on the 18th of December, 1788, and died on the 26th of May, 1873. As far back as 1802 he commenced to write in the clerk's office of Prince Edward county, and was engaged in preparing blank forms for use in the office. In April, 1803 he recorded his first deed in said office, and in December, 1805, he entered for the first time the county court orders, and in April, 1806, he recorded the orders of the district court. During the month of April, 1809, he was sworn in as deputy clerk of the circuit court, and in September of the same year he was appointed clerk *pro tem.* In February, 1810, he took the oath of deputy clerk of the county court, and in September, 1816, he qualified as clerk of the circuit court, and in August of 1825 he also qualified as clerk of the county court. To these positions he was regularly returned by his fellow-citizens, as his acknowledged efficiency as clerk removed him far above the wild waste of the waves of the political sea, no matter how much moved by party passion or stirred by party prejudice. That

which the political wave could not reach, the war wave at one touch destroyed, and, on the 26th of January, 1869, Mr. Worsham was deprived of his office by authority of the military. Mr. Worsham was also a member of the convention of 1850, which met in the city of Richmond on the 14th of October, 1850, and adopted a new constitution for the State of Virginia on the 1st of August, 1851, which was ratified by the people on the fourth Thursday of October following, and went into effect in January, 1852. With this exception, he never asked of or received from his fellow-citizens any other public office save that of clerk. As far back as memory goes, the dignified bearing, the classic and cleanly shaved face, the well dressed person, the quiet yet impressive manner of Mr. Worsham are most vividly recalled by us. As a child we feared him, but as a man we greatly respected him. When we first knew him he resided on his farm, some two and a half miles west of Prince Edward Courthouse, now called Worsham, after the subject of this sketch, and his habit was to ride in to his office every morning, and give to it not eight hours but a full day's work, for he brought his dinner with him and ate it cold. That office was a model of neatness and of correctness, and Mr. Worsham loved it as he did few other things in this world, and guarded its every paper with unwearying care. His methods were rigorously exacting, and his habits of life were governed by laws as unvarying as were those of the Medes and Persians. His convictions were strong and his opinions firm and fixed. His knowledge of the statute law of Virginia was as accurate as that of any of the lawyers of his day, and his judgment as reliable and his opinion as valuable. He was conspicu-

ous among that very conspicuous class of Virginia gentlemen, the clerks of our courts. His farm exhibited the results of that thoughtful and careful attention which had been given to his office, and his home was the seat of a liberal and refined hospitality. We remember being there quite often as a boy, and never did old Father Time go by on fleeter wing or furnish finer fun than when there "Josh" played the fiddle and our valued friend, "Ned" Price, directed the dance. Oh! for one more of just such an evening! The lamented Judge Watkins wrote these words on the 29th of May, 1873: "Those old clerks were high-toned gentlemen, who gave dignity to their office and who were looked up to by the people with more than ordinary respect. Mr. Worsham's personal integrity was equal to his official fidelity. He leaves a good name without one blot or stain. If, as we learn from that Book to which we are accustomed to look for all wisdom, that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, then his descendants have an inheritance of peculiar value."



☞ The following is a copy of the original, now in my possession, of the last official act of Mr. Worsham when he was called on by the miliary appointee to turn over the office to him and deliver up the records and papers. Those who have read the foregoing account of the old clerk—the jealous care with which, for fifty-three years, he had watched over and kept in perfect order the papers and records of his office—can well understand and appreciate the intense feeling of mor-

tification, not to say disgust, with which he surrendered his office and its valued records upon the order of a military commander, and in what temper of mind he wrote as follows, on his county court memorandum book: "1869, Jan'y 26th, 4 o'clock in the evening, rec'd orders removing me from office as clerk, and I cease forthwith to do any official business.—B. J. Worsham." The scene has been described by those who witnessed it as highly interesting, not to say exciting.

☞ This may be as appropriate a place as any other to remark that these days—the early part of January, 1869, when Virginia became *Military District No. 1*—were perhaps the darkest days of the period of *reconstruction;* not the least of our humiliations consisting in the sudden removal, by bayonet force, of more than one hundred trained clerks all over the State, almost without exception men of the highest character for honesty, intelligence and skill; their places being filled in most cases by men who were not only utterly incompetent, but of the most worthless character in every way. At one time I thought of leaving them all out, but afterwards decided that it would be best to keep up the regular succession of clerks down to the present time, which could only be done by perpetuating the evil memory of these men.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY.

Prince George was formed in 1702 from Charles City. The only information I have been able to obtain as to the former clerks of Prince George is contained

in a letter from Charles Comer, the present clerk, who states that "nearly all the records of the office were destroyed by the federal troops during the war. There are two old books, or rather parts of them, from which we learn that William Hamlin was clerk prior to 1714, and to an unknown date; and that Peter Williams was clerk some time prior to 1784, and to an unknown date." Besides the foregoing, I have received a letter from Mr. William H. Batte, a gentleman now living in Richmond, who was formerly deputy of his uncle, Robert Gilliam, clerk from 1834 to 1858. This letter was in reply to my notice in the Richmond *Dispatch* of November 12th, 1886, requesting information about the old clerks, from which letter I make the following extract:

"About the year 1822 Mr. Nathaniel B. Sturdivant was elected clerk of Prince George county by the justices, who in that day were men of the highest standing and character. He continued in office until his death in 1834–5, when my uncle, Robert Gilliam, was elected as his successor, and he held the office until 1857 or 1858, when he resigned, and Mr. Henry Parham succeeded him; and he, in turn, was succeeded by Mr. John D. Matthews, who continued in office until the county was occupied by federal troops in the late war, who destroyed all the records. After the war, my uncle, Robert Gilham, was recalled to his native county to the position of clerk, and continued in office until he was succeeded by a Mr. Lane, who was a republican, there being a large majority of republicans in the county. He afterwards resigned, and my uncle's son Robert was appointed by the judge, and continued by his son Robert being appointed, who after a few

years, about 1873, resigned and removed to Petersburg to practice law. I was deputy clerk for my uncle Robert from 1837 to 1846, when I moved to Petersburg, and have been engaged in writing ever since; was teller of the old Virginia Bank for several years, and have, since 1865, occupied positions of the same kind here and in Petersburg. I recall with pleasure the good old times when my venerable uncle occupied the position of clerk of Prince George. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of all; often referred to the palmy days of old Virginia, and of the pleasure it gave him to meet with old friends and kindred, and especially of the old clerks, amongst whom he had a wide acquaintance; also of the judges and lawyers of those days."

Following the order of the names above mentioned, the following is an approximately correct list of names and dates of service:

1. William Hamlin, from 1702 to ——, - — years.
2. Peter Williams, from 1784 to ——, - - — years.
3. Nathaniel B. Sturdivant, from 1822 to 1834, - - - - - - - - - - - - 12 years.
4. Robert Gilliam, from 1834 to 1858, - - 24 years.
5. Henry Parham, from 1858 to 1864, - - 6 years.
6. John D. Matthews, from 1864 to 1865, - 1 year.
7. Robert Gilliam, from 1865 to 1870, - - 5 years.
8. —— Lane, from 1870 to 1871, - - - 1 year.
9. Robert Gilliam, Jr., from 1871 to 1873, 2 years.
10. Charles Comer, from 1873 to 1887, - - 14 years.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY.

Prince William was formed in 1730 from Stafford and King George. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Catesby Cocke, from 1731 to 1749, - - 16 years.
2. Peter Wagoner, from 1749 to 1768, - - 17 years.
3. John Graham, from 1768 to 1778, - - 10 years.
4. Robert Graham, from 1778 to 1797, - 19 years.
5. John Williams, from 1797 to 1813, - - 16 years.
6. Philip Dawe, from 1813 to 1832, - - 19 years.
7. Philip D. Lipscomb, from 1832 to 1854, 22 years.
8. M. B. Sinclair, from 1854 to 1866, - - 12 years.
9. John C. Poor (military appointee), 1869. 1 year.
10. L. C. Osmann, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
11. L. A. Davis, from 1871 to 1887, - - - 16 years.
12. Edwin Nelson, from May 21, 1887.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. H. Brooke, from 1789 to 1793, - - - 4 years.
2. G. Brooke, from 1793 to 1805, - - - 12 years.
3. J. Brown, from 1805 to 1838, - - - - 33 years.
4. J. H. Reid, from 1838 to 1845, - - - 7 years.
5. P. D. Lipscomb, from 1845 to 1853, - 8 years.
6. Wm. H. Norvill, from 1853 to 1857, - 4 years.
7. Milton Fitzhugh, from 1857 to 1865, - 8 years.
8. John Camper, from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.
9. John C. Poor (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
10. L. C. Osmann, from 1870 to 1871, - - 1 year.
11. L. A. Davis, from 1871 to 1887, - - - 16 years.
12. Edwin Nelson, from May, 1887.

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY.

Princess Anne was formed in 1691 from Norfolk county. The clerks have been:

1. Patrick Angus, from 1691 to 1700, - - 9 years.
2. Christopher Cocke, from 1700 to 1716, - 16 years.
3. Charles Sayer, from 1716 to 1740, - - 24 years.
4. Arthur Sayer, from 1740 to 1761, - - 21 years.
5. Robert Ballard, from 1761 to 1770, - - 9 years.
6. George savage, from 1770 to 1771, - - 1 year.
7. E. H. Moseley, from 1771 to 1814, - - 43 years.
8. William T. Nimmo, from 1814 to 1821, 7 years.
9. John J. Burroughs, from 1821 to 1869, 48 years.
10. James E. Strawhand, from 1869 to 1871, 2 years.
11. Jay D. Edwards, from 1871 to 1875, - 4 years.
12. John J. Woodhouse, from July, 1875 to October, 1875, (died), - - - - - - 3 mos.
13. James E. Strawhand, from 1875 to 1884. 9 years.
14. John J. Woodhouse, from 1884 to 1887, 3 years. And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞ On pages 436–37 of Howe's Historical Sketches of Virginia, we find a record of the trial of *Grace Sherwood* for *witchcraft* in the year 1705, which is very curious on several accounts, (1) as showing the state of society at that time, and that persecution for witchcraft was not confined alone to the Puritans of New England, as supposed by many of the present day. It will be recollected that the accused had only to declare themselves guilty and their lives were spared. Grace Sherwood met a milder fate. The place where she was *ducked* is an inlet making from Lynnhaven bay, which

is called to this day "Witch's Duck." (2) The old and rather quaint form of *English*, in which the court records of that day were entered, of which the following is a specimen:

"Princess Anne s. s. At a court held ye 3d of Jan'y, 1705–6, present Gent: Mr. Beno: Burrs, Collo. Moseley, Mr. John Cownick, Capt. Hancock, Capt. Chapman—Justices. Whereas, Luke Hill and uxor som'd Grace Sherwood to this court in *suspition* of witchcraft, and she fayling to *apear*, it is therefore order yt attachment to ye sherr: do Issue to attach her body to ans'r ye sd: som: next court."

It further appears from the record that a jury of twelve *weamen* rendered the following verdict: "We, of ye jury have *searcht* Grace Sherwood, and have found two things like *titts*, with several other spotts." Upon this verdict, and some other proof, she was condemned to be *ducked*, which the justices adjourned the court to witness.

SKETCH OF JOHN J. BURROUGHS.

John J. Burroughs was born in the county of Middlesex in October, 1798; about 1808 his father removed to the city of Norfolk. He entered the clerk's office of the hustings court of the city of Norfolk in 1815, and on the 25th of February, 1817, he qualified as deputy of Colonel William Sharp, who was at that time clerk of that court. On the 6th of September, 1819, he qualified as the deputy of William T. Nimmo, the clerk of the county court of Princess Anne. Upon the death of Mr. Nimmo he was, on the 5th day of November, 1821, elected clerk of that court and the circuit court of that county. He was re-elected at the

end of each term by the justices of the county court until the adoption of the constitution of 1850–51.

At the first election by the people he was elected as clerk of the county court, but not of the circuit court; at the second election he was elected clerk of both courts, and was re-elected at each successive time to both offices. He remained in office, as clerk of both courts, until he was removed by the order of General Canby, military governor of District No. 1, in May, 1869.

After the abolition of the old district chancery court in 1831, when equity powers were conferred upon the circuit courts and the county courts, he was appointed a commissioner in chancery of the county court and also of the circuit court. He continued to hold and perform the duties of these offices until he was disqualified by the passage of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

As a clerk he was a good penman; wrote rapidly; his records were the perfection of neatness—no sand or steel pens were ever allowed to touch the records; the goose-quill and the old red blotter were used. The common law orders were all drafted by him; he usually followed the forms of John Robinson, clerk of the superior court of Henrico, edited by Conway Robinson, then deputy clerk of that court, (1826), adapting them to the changes made in the laws after that date. These orders were succinct, clear, and fully expressed the law on the subject of the entry; they were put upon the order-book in open court, at once; they were not drawn off and then copied. However large the amount of business done, the orders were always ready for the signature of the judge or presiding justice the next morn-

ing, and it was a common thing for the records to cover ten or twelve pages of the large record books.

After the adoption of the code of 1850, there were many changes in the statute law which required corresponding changes in the law orders. He took up the code of 1849, and went through it systematically, making all the changes required, especially in reference to the attachments law. He was not satisfied with the orders; he thought they were too long; so he went to Norfolk city and Portsmouth and consulted his brother clerks, John Williams, of Norfolk city, and Arthur Emmerson, of Portsmouth; he found that they too had prepared orders on the same subject, but they were longer than his own.

He regarded all the papers in the office as in his custody, and, with the exception of deed and will-books, no one was permitted to take them from the shelves but himself or a deputy. When a court adjourned, immediately the fees for the work done were charged up, all executions issued, and a memorandum put on the margin of the order-book corresponding with the fee-book; nothing could induce him to leave his office until this work was completed.

During the late war the records of the clerk's office were taken by the federal troops. He requested the captain in charge of the soldiers to give him a receipt for the papers; he drew a paper, specifying each book and paper taken, and showing under what orders the seizure was made, which the officer signed.

In all matters of public concern affecting the interest of his county he was consulted and advised with; and he was often called upon to settle the differences and adjust the rights of parties to property. He was a man

of lovely disposition, to whom almost every one was attached by his kindness of heart and his courteous and gentle manners; firm and uncompromising on all questions of principle, he was yet modest as a woman and affectionate as a child; full of sympathy for the suffering and distressed, he was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. His religious convictions were strong, and he let nothing interfere with the habit of bringing his family together night and morning for family worship. His house was proverbial for hospitality, and, during the session of the courts, it was usually the headquarters of counsel from the neighboring cities.

After half a century of faithful public service, he died in February, 1872, loved and honored by all who knew him.

☞ It was by J. J. Burroughs, who was clerk of Princess Anne in 1832, that the singular "*Record of the Trial of Grace Sherwood, in 1705, for Witchcraft*," was prepared for the late J. P. Cushing, president of Hampden Sidney college, who presented it to the Virginia Historical Society, and is published in their collections. It may also be found in Howe's Historical Collections of Virginia" on Princess Anne county.

F. J.

PULASKI COUNTY.

Pulaski was formed in 1839 from Montgomery and Wythe. The clerks have been:

1. William B. Charlton, from 1839 to 1846, 7 years.
2. Lynch A. Currin, from 1846 to 1864, - 18 years.
3. John B. Baskerville, from 1864 to 1867, 3 years.
4. J. H. Larew, (*pro tem.*), from January, 1867, to May, 1867, - - - - - - - 4 mos.
5. D. S. Pollock, from 1867 to 1869, - - 2 years.
6. William H. Davis, from February, 1869, to May, 1870, - - - - - - - - - 15 mos.
7. Robert D. Gardner, from 1870 to 1887, 17 years. And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY.

Rappahannock was formed in 1831 from Culpeper. The clerks have been:

1. William J. Menifee, from 1832 to 1858, 26 years.
   ☞ He had been trained as deputy clerk in the clerk's office of Culpeper, and being a man of fine business habits, made an able, exact and efficient clerk.
2. Benjamin F. Peyton, from 1858 to 1859, 1 year.
3. Robert M. Reterick, from 1859 to 1869, ten years, when he was removed by military authority, but continued to act for the clerk *pro tempore*, as his deputy, until 1871, two years, when he was elected clerk, and continued such until 1881, ten years, - - - - - - - - - 22 years.
4. Edward C. Reterick, from 1881 to 1887, 6 years.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

Richmond was formed in 1692, when "Old Rappahannock" was extinguished and Richmond and Essex were formed from it. The clerks have been:

1. William Colston, from 1692 to 1701, - 9 years.
2. James Sherlock, from 1701 to 1708, - - 7 years.
3. *Sir Marmaduke Beckwith, from 1708 to 1748, - - - - - - - - - - - - 40 years.
4. T. Tarpley, from 1748 to 1771, - - - 23 years.
5. Leroy Peachey, from 1771 to 1793, - - 22 years.
6. Bartholomew McCarty, from 1793 to 1811, - - - - - - - - - - - - 18 years.
7. George Saunders, from 1811 to 1815, - 4 years.
8. Bartholomew McCarty, from 1815 to 1820, - - - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
9. George Saunders, from 1820 to 1838, - 18 years.
10. John F. B. Jeffries, from 1838 to 1848, 10 years.
    ☞ Born in Essex county July 10, 1798; died May 17, 1848.
11. Isaac S. Jeffries, from 1848 to 1859, - 1 year.
    ☞ Born January 29, 1817; died October 24, 1849.
12. F. W. Pendleton, 1849 to 1865, - - - 18 years.
13. L. D. Warner, from 1865 to 1887, - - 22 years.

L. D. Warner

* It was *Sir Marmaduke Beckwith's* estate which was the subject of division in the case of "Beckwith vs. Butler," 1st Washington's Reports, page 226—the *leading case* in Virginia on the subject of *interest on advancements.*

RICHMOND CITY.

The clerks of the hustings or corporation court have been:

1. Adam Craig, from 1782 to 1805, - - - 23 years.
2. Thomas C. Howard, from 1805 to 1834, 29 years.
3. N. P. Howard, from 1834 to 1836, - - 2 years.
4. Charles Howard, from 1836 to 1854, - 18 years.
5. Robert Howard, from 1854 to 1868, - - 14 years.
6. Andrew Washburn, (military appointee), from 1868 to 1870, - - - - - - - 2 years.
7. Andrew Jenkins, from 1870 to 1883, - 13 years.
8. William P. Lawton, from 1883 to 1888, 5 years. Re-elected in May, 1888.

The clerks of the circuit court have been:

1. John Robinson, clerk of district court from 1797 to 1809, twelve years; of circuit court from 1809 to 1850, forty-one years, - - - - - - - - - - 53 years.
2. Eustace Robinson, from 1841 to 1858, - 17 years.
3. James Ellett, from 1858 to 1862, - - - 4 years.
4. Benjamin Pollard, from 1862 to 1866, - 4 years.
5. L. Edwin Dudley, (military appointee), to 1868, - - - - - - - - - - - 2 years.
6. Thomas S. Adkins, (military appointee), to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
7. Alfred Shield, from 1869 to 1887, - - 18 years.

Benj. Pollard

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN ROBINSON.

BY HIS GRANDSON, LEIGH ROBINSON, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

John Robinson was born February 13th, 1773. In September, 1788 he went in the stage to Richmond to be there in the office of Mr. Adam Craig, clerk of the county and hustings courts. He boarded in Mr. Craig's family, and assisted him for several years, and became competent to perform the duties of clerk. Afterwards he was an assistant of Mr. John Brown, the clerk of the district court at Richmond, and succeeded Mr. Brown as clerk of that court, in or about 1797, when Mr. Brown went as secretary to John Marshall and others ministers from the United States to the French republic. John Robinson acted as clerk of the district court until 1809, when it was abolished and succeeded by a circuit court for each of the counties of Hanover, Henrico, Chesterfield, Goochland and Powhatan. Though for a time clerk of the committee for courts of justice of the house of delegates of Virginia, as well as clerk of the circuit court of Henrico, yet his income was now much smaller than when he was clerk of the district court. About 1812 he arranged to have a competent deputy to perform the duties and receive the income of the clerkship of the circuit court, and went into co-partnership with his wife's brother (Mr. William Moncure) and Mr. Frederick Pleasants. That co-partnership having ceased in 1826, he resumed his clerkship in the spring of 1827, and acted as clerk of a circuit court at Richmond from that time until his death. He had been married, on Monday, February 9th, 1801, to Agnes Conway Moncure. John Robinson joined the militia on May 9th, 1793, and was appointed lieutenant of the first battalion, Nineteenth

regiment of Virginia, on April 14th, 1794. He died in the year 1850, and his wife, Agnes Conway Robinson, died on the 15th of November, 1862, at Poplar Vale, the residence of her daughter, Anna Jane, in the eighty-second year of her age.

☞ In sending me the foregoing sketch of his grandfather, Mr. Leigh Robinson accompanies it with the following statement, which is deemed worthy of publication, as illustrating two things—first the character of John Robinson for being willing to furnish from his office valuable information to others without fee or reward, which was also true of many other old clerks; second, that such favors done to others are often (as in this case) the means of obtaining benefits of the greatest value, and the more so that they come in an unexpected manner. F. J.

"My uncle, Mr. Moncure Robinson, has mentioned to me that, upon the occasion of a visit by him to Edinburg, as a young man, in midsummer, when every one of prominence among those to whom he had letters of introduction was absent, he found himself in that beautiful and interesting city without acquaintances, or would have done so but for a letter sent him by a very plain Scotchman then residing in America. This gentleman, hearing from his father (my grandfather) that his eldest son was abroad, wrote to my uncle, that my grandfather would accept of no compensation for very valuable information rendered by him and found in the records of his office, in regard to lands in Western Virginia, in which he (the writer) and his brother were interested; and that his brother, unlike himself, (though only a clerk of the signet), was well known in Edinburg, and would, he knew, take great pleasure in intro-

ducing my uncle to his friends there, many of whom held high positions. My uncle left the letter, with his address, and was called upon at his hotel, the same day, by the brother, and accepted an invitation to dine with him on the following day, when he had the pleasure of meeting at his house some of the most distinguished men of Scotland, and among them the renowned civil engineer, Stevenson, the intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott, and at whose house he breakfasted and dined during his stay with the most prominent people of the place."

☞ The first edition of John Robinson's Book of Forms was published in 1798 when he was clerk of the superior court of law for the city of Richmond. His son, Conway Robinson, who was deputy under his father, published a second edition, much enlarged and improved, in the year 1826. These two volumes have been of inestimable value to clerks of courts. In 1840 Conway Robinson published his Book of Forms, in connection with his *Practice;* and these were esteemed of the highest value and authority for lawyers, but his Book of Forms of 1826 was much more useful to clerks. This being out of print, and many of the forms having become antiquated and useless, on account of the many changes in the laws, the compiler of this volume of "Memorials" has prepared and will issue from the press at the same time "A New and Complete Book of Forms," intended as a guide to clerks of courts and as an aid to lawyers, which he flatters himself will fully meet a much needed want. It

is an interesting fact connected with John Robinson that Henry Clay was, in his early youth, a deputy in his office.

BENJAMIN POLLARD, LATE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND.

The following, which is copied from an editorial note in the *Law Journal* of 1880, page 381, is such a handsome tribute to one of the old Virginia clerks, and so well expresses my idea of the high and honorable position in which this class of useful public officers has heretofore been held, that I make no apology to the editor for using it in connection with this volume of "Memorials of Old Virginia Clerks." F. J.

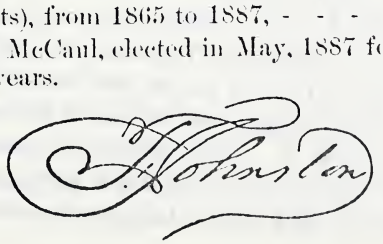
"The body of men which once filled the offices of clerks of courts in Virginia have left as decided impressions upon the history and traditions of the State as any other class that have lived in it. They exerted possibly more influence than any other men in the communities and times in which they lived, and their influence was always for good. They were the general advisers of the people; their advice was generally followed, and in nine cases out of ten it was good, whether viewed from a financial, moral or legal standpoint. The race of these valuable members of society, which gave it a tone peculiar to Virginia, has almost become extinct, but those who remember them still love to dwell on the characters of such men, who were universally regarded as having been the most exemplary that any people were ever blessed with. One of them, and a representative of his class, has left us since our last issue. We refer to *Benjamin Pollard*, for several years clerk of the circuit court of the city of Richmond.

He was a real Virginian; a man of excellent sense; an admirable clerk, and the very soul of truth and integrity. His father, and kinsmen of the same name, were clerks of the courts of Hanover, King William, King and Queen and Northampton for several generations; and the name of Pollard was always associated in Virginia with those offices and with those institutions that we now think of only with reverence and affection, and regret so much that they can never be restored. There seems to be nothing in the times in which we live favorable to the development of such men, and it is to be feared 'we ne'er shall look upon their like again.'"

ROANOKE COUNTY.

Roanoke was formed from Botetourt in 1838. The clerks have been:

1. Frederick Johnston, (circuit court), from 1838 to 1865, - - - - - - - - - 27 years.
   ☞ He succeeded William M. Cook, who was the first clerk of the county court, from 1838 to 1846, and F. Johnston was then clerk of the county and circuit courts to 1865—nineteen years.
2. William McCauley, (county and circuit courts), from 1865 to 1887, - - - - 22 years.
3. Pat H. McCaul, elected in May, 1887 for six years.



AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FREDERICK JOHNSTON.

As several of the sketches of the old clerks have been furnished by themselves, I hope it will not be considered indelicate or improper in me to say something about myself and my ancestry.

Peter Johnston, my grandfather, came from Edinburg, in Scotland, to America about the year 1730. He was of that ancient border clan celebrated by Sir Walter Scott in the lines—

"On all the banks of Annandale
The gentle Johnstones ride;
They have been there a thousand years,
And shall a thousand bide."

General Joseph E. Johnston, my cousin, in the year 1867, paid a visit to the home of our ancestors, in the valley of Annandale, and found the Laird of Pomfrey Glen to be the head of the clan *Johnstone*, as the name has always been spelt in Scotland.

On first coming to America, Peter Johnston first settled on James river, near City Point, where he was successfully engaged in the mercantile business for many years, and afterwards settled in the county of Prince Edward, and built a fine residence and owned a family seat called Longwood, after his ancestral home. It has passed through several hands since that time, but still retains the old name, and is immediately on the road leading from Farmville to Hampden Sidney college, the land on which the latter place is built having been donated for that purpose by Peter Johnston, from which it may be inferred that he was himself a man of liberal education and a friend of learning, as the Scotch merchants of that day usually were. It may be regarded as a digression, but I will here say that the Scotch merchant has always occupied a very high positon in the

mercantile world, being remarkable not only for their intelligence but for their strict ideas of mercantile honor and integrity; in fact, the name of Scotch merchant was thought to be almost equal to a patent of nobility. Their books were always kept in double entry, and were models of superior penmanship and the most scrupulous accuracy. There is a pretty well authenticated tradition of a Scotch merchant of the seventeenth century being in the habit of placing, in large letters, on the first page of his *ledger*, these significant words: "God bless this buik, and make *it* and *me* perfectly honest." With such a pious motto constantly before his eyes, there is no wonder that the Scotch merchant reached the highest point of success in his business. It was in such a school as this that my father was educated as a bookkeeper, and he was certainly one of the best that I have ever known. When he was about twenty years of age he was employed by Mr. John May, a gentleman of the highest character and respectability, who lived at Belle-Vue, on the Appomattox river, near Petersburg, to accompany him, in the year 1789, to the State of Kentucky, on business connected with large landed interests that he held there, about which he was engaged in litigation requiring the aid of a skillful and intelligent clerk. This trip was accomplished by land on horseback, and without any particular danger or difficulty; but a second trip on which they started, in March, 1790, had a disastrous termination, involving the killing of Mr. May and the capture of my father by the Indians, of which my father published an account in the year 1827, in a small volume entitled "A narrative of the incidents attending the capture, detention and ransom of Charles Johnston, of Botetourt county, Virginia,

who was made prisoner by the Indians on the Ohio river, in the year 1790; together with an interesting account of the fate of his companions, five in number, one of whom suffered at the stake."

So much of my father. On my mother's side, the *memorial of James Steptoe*, the old clerk of Bedford, shows that he was my grandfather, and that he was descended from one of the best English families.

In my fifteenth year I left my father's house at Botetourt Springs, and, with his consent and advice, went to Columbia, South Carolina, where I lived in a book-store, conducted by that elegant scholar and gentleman, Edward William Johnston, for three years—that is, until December 1829. It was here that I came into daily contact and intercourse with the professors in the College of South Carolina, who were all fine scholars and good talkers. The book-store was a place of almost daily resort for these and other men of letters then living in Columbia, such as Judge DeSaussure, Chancellor Harper, William C. Preston and others. This literary circle was enlarged during the period when the legislature was in annual session by the presence of such men as Hugh S. Legare, Waddy Thompson, the greatest wit of his day, George McDuffie, Robert Y. Hayne and James H. Hammond. Altogether it was such a body of *savants* as any young man who was desirous of mental improvement might well be proud to be associated with; and I owe much of my taste for reading good books and of what I know to what I learned in this school.

Passing over the five years after 1829, which was spent as salesman and book-keeper in stores in Salisbury, North Carolina, Fincastle and Salem, Virginia, I come to the year 1834, when I married Nancy, the daughter

of Nathaniel Burwell, Esq., and settled at Big Lick as a merchant, where I continued until 1838, when the county of Roanoke was formed from Botetourt, when I applied for and obtained from Judge John J. Allen, then judge of that circuit, the position of clerk of the circuit court, which office I held by successive appointments and elections by the people for twenty-seven years, that is, to the close of the war in 1865. I also held the office of county court clerk from the year 1846 to 1865, when I was succeeded by William McCauley, a wounded soldier, who held both offices (except during the *interregnum* of the military) until July 1, 1887, when he was succeeded by P. H. McCaul. It will thus be seen that Roanoke county has had but two clerks of the circuit court and three of the county court during the whole period of its existence—fifty years.

How well the duties of the office have been performed by the writer it would perhaps not be becoming in him to say; but he feels a just pride in stating that if any opinion can be formed from the fact that he was all the time consulted and advised with by other clerks, then he must have been held in no small estimation. He feels an equally just pride in stating that no clerk's office was ever left in better condition than his was; all the records being well preserved and every paper in its proper place.

It gives me pleasure to say with reference to my successor, Mr. McCauley, that, for the twenty-two years that he has held the office, it was well and properly conducted, and he has made a good reputation as a faithful and efficient clerk. His reading was very extensive, particularly in reference to everything connected with the early history of Virginia, and his information on that subject was very extensive and accurate.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY.

Rockbridge was formed in 1777 from Augusta and Botetourt. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Andrew Reid, from 1778 to 1831, - - 53 years.
2. Sam'l McD. Reid, from 1831 to 1852, - 21 years.
3. C. Chapin, from 1852 to 1863, - - - 11 years.
4. J. K. Edmundson, from 1863 to 1865, - 2 years.
5. Andrew Agnor, from 1865 to 1870 (under Pierpont government and as military appointee), - - - - - - - - - 5 years.
6. J. P. Moore, from 1870 to 1887, - - - 17 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, without opposition.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Andrew Reid, from 1809 to 1831, - - 22 years.
2. Sam'l McD. Reid, from 1831 to 1858, - 27 years.
3. J. G. Steele, from 1858 to 1864, - - - 6 years.
4. J. C. Boude, from 1864 to 1865, and from 1870 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 18 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, without opposition.

MEMORIAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF COLONEL SAM'L M'DOWELL REID, SECOND CLERK OF ROCKBRIDGE.

He was born on the 21st day of October, 1790; was educated at Washington College (now Washington and Lee); was a student of law at Staunton, under Judge Stuart. When Colonel McDowell, father of Governor McDowell, marched through Staunton on his way to Norfolk, in command of a regiment recruited during the war of 1812, young Reid enlisted, and served as

Colonel McDowell's adjudant. He was one of the founders of the Graham Society, and one of the corporators and first president of the Franklin Society in 1816. He was appointed clerk of the county court of Rockbridge July 5th, 1831, and about the same time was also appointed clerk of the circuit court, succeeding his father, Andrew Reid, in both offices. He held the office of county court clerk until July, 1852, when he declined a re-election, but was then re-elected clerk of the circuit court, which office he held until July, 1858. He was for many years a member of the board of directors of the James River Company; and was more than any other man influential in securing the North River canal, giving his time, influence and means. He represented Rockbridge county in the house of delegates for several years. He was for more than forty years a member of the board of trustees of Washington College, and of Washington and Lee University to the time of his death, making a continuous service of fifty years; and was one of the trustees of Ann Smith Academy about the same length of time. In fact, he was actively connected with every public interest of his native county. For many years before his death (which occurred on the 15th of September, 1869,) he was an active and efficient ruling elder of Lexington Presbyterian church.

The meetings of the different associations with which Colonel Reid had been connected during his life, and resolutions adopted after his death, all express the highest appreciation of his public services and private virtues. At a meeting of the bar, held during the session of the circuit court of Rockbridge on the 15th of September, 1869, Governor Letcher presented a series of

resolutions, which were adopted by the bar and officers of the court, and which bore the highest testimony to the character and services of Colonel Reid, and the judge of the court, in response to these resolutions, made the following statement from the bench: "It was my pleasure, indeed, in view of the eminent virtues of the deceased, I should rather say it was my privilege, to know him intimately for many years, and I must say that he has not left behind him a more perfect model of the old Virginia gentleman. I heartily concur in every sentiment so eloquently expressed in the preamble and resolutions which have been read, and most cheerfully yield to your request, and order them to be spread upon the records of this court as a feeble testimonial of the high estimate we all entertain for the memory of the deceased."

Rowland D. Buford, Esq., who was for many years deputy clerk under Colonel Reid, and afterwards the accomplished clerk of Bedford circuit court, has furnished the following graceful and appropriate sketch, which is creditable alike to his head and to his heart. Perhaps none but so admirable a clerk as Mr. Buford could have furnished so just a portraiture of such an admirable clerk as Colonel Reid:

Colonel Samuel McDowell Reid was the son of Andrew Reid, the first clerk of Rockbridge county, and Magdaline McDowell. His father having died, Colonel Reid succeeded him in the office of county clerk on the 6th day of June, 1831, which he held until July, 1852; and also as clerk of the circuit court until the 1st July, 1858. Having received a collegiate education at Washington College, and having been subsequently a student of law; having spent a goodly part of his time in the

clerks' offices under the training of his father, who had committed almost the whole business of the offices to his son, and being endowed by nature with a strong physical constitution and a head full of good common sense, it was but natural that he should succeed his father in office. He was rather above the usual height, squarely and compactly built, and weighed about two hundred pounds; his head was large, forehead broad and proportionately high; eyebrows heavy, the latter tending to give him a somewhat stern appearance; his mouth rather wide and well set; in fact, though not really a handsome man, his features, when manifesting interest either in amusement or in the stern realities of life, beamed with intelligence.

The distinguishing traits in Colonel Reid's character were his sound common sense, strong will, strict integrity, undeviating candor and directness in word and deed, high moral courage, a notable freedom from censoriousness in his judgment of others, a uniform spirit of kindness in his intercourse with his fellow-men, and unbounded hospitality, all more fully developed by constant intercourse with many leading men of his day, with whom he was thrown in the conduct of public institutions and enterprises But here I must not forget what was the sweetest and purest of all influences that help to mellow and adorn his qualities in life. I refer, of course, to his charming and accomplished wife, who was Miss Sally Hare, of the county of Nelson. They were married on the 22d day of February, 1820. The fruits of that happy marriage were three sons and two daughters. His wife died in 1839; his two oldest sons in 1842 and 1844, and his youngest son, Samuel McDowell Reid, died in 1856. His oldest daughter is the

wife of Professor J. J. White, of Washington and Lee University, and the youngest is the wife of Colonel J. D. H. Ross, of Rockbridge county.

During Colonel Reid's official life, and anterior to about the year 1860, the clerks' offices in the various counties in the State were generally filled by first-rate men, as well as first-rate officers, whose character as gentlemen was irreppproachable, and their accomplishments and fitness as officers unquestionable. So it was with the judges of the circuit courts and the justices of the peace that adorned the bench in the counties of the State. Colonel Reid was thus a fit officer for such courts. No county in Virginia could boast of a better set of justices in all respects than the county of Rockbridge. They were Scotch-Irish, or Scotch-Irish descent; kind, generous, intelligent, firm, independent and just. By such a court Colonel Reid was often consulted about matters affecting the interests of the county, and his advice generally taken.

As an officer, he was absolutely trustworthy. The court knew its clerk, and, when need be, called on him and relied on his wisdom and integrity. He wrote a good, plain hand, but by no means rapidly; he had great condensing power; the orders of his courts, when drawn by him, were short, comprehensive, accurate and to the point, and expressed in good, strong legal language. In this he had, as we believe, no superior. Though Colonel Reid, to a stranger or casual acquaintance, had rather a stern aspect, yet he was invariably polite, courteous and genial, and at times indulged in humor, enjoying a good joke very much. It was to him a season of great enjoyment at the end of the term of the circuit court, after the judge had gotten through

with the business of the court and was waiting for the deputy clerk to enter up the orders and decrees in the chancery causes, to leave the clerk's desk and take a seat within the bar, where he was at all times welcome, in company with Thomas J. Michie, James D. Davidson, A. H. H. Stuart, Governor Letcher, David E. Moore and other shining lights of the bar, and spend an hour or two in pleasant, social intercourse; and so great and light-hearted were the fun and merriment that the deputy, though earnestly engaged in writing up the orders, was forced sometimes to lay down his pen for the moment and join in the delightful pastime.

During his official life, as clerk of the county court, a certain gentleman was elected a justice of the peace, in place of one who had died. The gentleman referred to was a man of high character, well educated and of good, practical, business sense. A few weeks after he had been commissioned and qualified he came into the clerk's office to interview the clerk on the subject of law books; in short, to inquire what books he would need in the proper discharge of his duties as justice. Colonel Reid, knowing him very well, chatted with him very pleasantly about law books, but finally said to him, "John, have you a Bible?" "Yes, sir," was the reply, "Well, John, that's the best book you can have. Read it carefully and go by it, and you will come out all right."

On another occasion, a very intelligent friend of his, residing some distance from the courthouse, but having no practical acquaintance with business affairs, determined to write his will and have it recorded in the clerk's office at once. He accordingly wrote his will, folded it up neatly, and sent it, with a polite note, to

Colonel Reid, by his son, requesting him to have it recorded at once. The Colonel was quite busy at the time, but he laid aside his pen, read the note, and, playfully addressing the young man, said to him, "My son, is your father dead?" "No, sir," was the reply. "Well, I'm glad to hear it; go home and tell your father that he must die before this paper (holding the will in his hand) can be recorded."

At the election that took place in 1852 he declined to be a candidate for the clerkship of the county court, but was elected clerk of the circuit court, and filled out the term of six years, retiring from the clerkship of that court in July, 1858. He was subsequently elected a delegate from Rockbridge to the general assembly of Virginia, of which body he was a useful and valuable member. Several years afterwards his health became delicate, and he gradually withdrew from all public matters, apparently ceasing to feel any interest in them or in the business affairs of life; and passed away quietly from his sweet home on earth to a sweeter home in Heaven, honored, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.

Rockingham was formed in 1777 from Augusta. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Peter Hog, (so spelled), from 1778 to 1782, 4 years.
2. Henry *Ewin*, (so spelled until of late years,) from 1782 to 1792, - - - - 10 years.

3. Samuel McWilliams, from 1792 to 1817, 25 years.
4. Henry Jewett Gambill, from 1817 to 1847, - - - - - - - - - - - - 30 years.
5. Erasmus Coffman, from 1847 to 1852, - 5 years.
6. L. W. Gambill, from 1852 to 1869, - - 17 years.
7. William McK. Hartmann, from 1869 to 1875, - - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
8. Joseph Travis Logan, from 1875 to 1885, 10 years.
9. Joseph S. Messerley, from 1885 to 1887, 2 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Arthur St. Clair Sprinkle, from 1852 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - - 17 years.
   He was also clerk of county court *pro tem.*, from 1870 to 1871, - - - - - 1 year.
2. William McKenney Hartmann, from 1872 to 1875, - - - - - - - - - - - - 3 years.
3. Foxall A. Daingerfield, from 1870 to 1872, 2 years.
4. L. W. Gambill, from 1872 to 1875, - - 3 years.
5. Joseph H. Shue, from 1875 to 1883 (died), 8 years.

☞ See biographical sketches below.

Rockingham county was established by an act of the general assembly of Virginia passed October, 1777, and the first county court was organized April 27th, 1778.

Peter Hog* was the first "clerk of the county," as the name appears to have been written in the old records. Mr. Hog is said to have lived at Port Republic,

* In Captain John Stuart's "Narrative of General Andrew Lewis' Expedition against the Indians in the year 1774," published in the "Magazine of American History," in December number, 1877, it is stated that *Peter Hog* was appointed one of the captains under General Washington in 1752. It is supposed that this is the same Peter Hog who was the first clerk of Rockingham county.

on the Shenandoah river, and the ruins of an old storehouse are pointed out as the remains of the first clerk's office in Rockingham county. Mr. Hog died in February, 1782, and his family, as well as the name, has disappeared from the county, and are said to have removed to the western portion of Virginia.

Henry Ewin, the second "clerk of the county," was the son of William Ewin, (or Ewing, as he and his family now spell the name), who was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and, being a strong Calvinist, fled to Londonderry, Ireland, and from thence, by permission of Queen Mary, he came to America, and located in Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he married a Miss Shannon. In 1742, William Ewing came into the Shenandoah Valley and purchased three hundred acres of land some three miles northwest of where Harrisonburg now stands, and located himself and his family, which consisted of three sons, Henry, Andrew and John, and two daughters, Elizabeth, afterwards the wife of Hugh Devier, and Nancy, who married ——— Hogshead.

Henry Ewin was elected clerk of Rockingham February 25th, 1782, and held the office until July, 1792, when he removed to Hardin county, Kentucky, where he died about 1799.

Mr. Ewing was one of the first justices appointed for Rockingham county in March, 1778, and as long as he remained in the county he always took a prominent part in its affairs.

Samuel McWilliams, the third clerk of Buckingham county, was appointed to succeed Mr. Henry Ewin in July, 1792, and continued to hold the office until his death, in February, 1817. Mr. McWilliams married

Edith Harrison, a daughter of Colonel Benjamin Harrison, January 16th, 1792, and resided on what is now known as the Watemamo farm, northwest of Harrisonburg. His death was caused by a fall from a wagon.

Mr. McWilliams' family has disappeared from the county, and nothing can now be gathered of his history. Mathew Gambill and Henry Jewett Gambill were deputies for Mr. McWilliams, and, from the records, we judge that Mr. H. J. Gambill performed most of the duties of the office.

Henry Jewett Gambill, the fourth clerk of Rockingham county, was born in either Albemarle or Augusta county, June 21st, 1777, and came to Rockingham when about twenty years of age.

Mr. Gambill appears first as having charge of the court-house generally for several years. On the 23d of April, 1798, he was appointed and qualified as deputy clerk for Mr. Samuel McWilliams, and soon after was appointed by the county court to settle the accounts of different persons who had been sheriffs of Rockingham county, to receive all money due the county, and to act as a custodian or treasurer for the funds of the county, which position Mr. Gambill held for forty years.

In 1804 Mr. Gambill was elected to the legislature with Daniel Smith (afterwards the renowned judge). On April 24th, 1809, Mr. Gambill was appointed clerk of the circuit superior court of law and chancery for Rockingham county, and held that office until May 11th, 1847, when he declined in favor of his son, L. W. Gambill. On February 18th, 1817, he was elected clerk of the county, (by the justices), and held that office to the time of his death, December 25th, 1847.

Mr. Gambill married Miss Margaret C. Burns, Octo-

ber 10th, 1799, and left three sons, Dr. Richard H. Gambill, David Holmes Gambill and Major L. W. Gambill, and two daughters, Mrs. Charlotte Smith and Mrs. Isabella Gambill.

Erasmus Coffman, the fifth clerk of the county court of Rockingham county, was a son of Samuel Coffman, and was born December 26th, 1808, at the old Coffman farm, on Linville creek, in the northern portion of the county. Mr. Coffman was elected clerk of the county court by the justices comprising that court, February 23d, 1848, after a three days' hard contest, and on the fourteenth ballot. His opponents were Major L. W. Gambill and William G. Stevens. His election was accomplished by the consolidation of those who supported L. W. Gambill with his friends; and he appointed L. W. Gambill his deputy. Mr. Coffman held the office until July 1st, 1852, when he was succeeded by Major. L. W. Gambill.

Mr. Coffman was a man of fine attainments. Endowed by nature with a good mind and a remarkable memory, by extensive reading he became one of the best informed gentlemen in our county, while his genial disposition, his fine conversational powers, great fund of anecdotes, made him the central figure in every company he entered. After leaving the clerk's office he retired to his farm, where he resided the remainder of his life in blissful bachelorhood. Mr. Coffman died March 17th, 1880.

Major Littleton Watermann Gambill, the sixth clerk of the county court of Rockingham county, was the son of Henry Jewett Gambill and Margaret C. Burns, and was born near Harrisonburg September 16th, 1802. He was educated in the schools of the town, and for

several years was a clerk in the store of Mr. Isaac Chrisman, in the northern portion of the county. He then became deputy clerk of the courts of the county for his father, and May 11th, 1847, he was appointed clerk of the circuit superior court of Rockingham county, which office he held until July 1st, 1852, when he took the office of clerk of the county court of Rockingham, to which he had been elected on the 27th of May, 1852, at the first election by the people of county officers. Major Gambill held the office of clerk of the county court until he was removed by order of General Stoneman, January 7th, 1869, and Robert A. Gray appointed clerk. Major Gambill was a candidate for the office at the fall election of 1870, but was defeated by Mr. William McK. Wartmann, by reason of the combination of his three strongest opponents. He was elected clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham at the November election, 1871, to fill an unexpired term. He took the office January 1st, 1872, and held the same until July 1st, 1875, when he was succeeded by J. H. Shue, who defeated him at the May election, 1875. During his term of office as clerk of the county court William D. Trout was his faithful and efficient deputy, and as clerk of the circuit court G. F. Compton, as his deputy, conducted the office.

Major Gambill was a very popular man, and generous to a fault. He was a kind and indulgent husband and father, and, taking a great interest in the pleasures and enjoyments of the young, he was always ready to help them when called upon. Major Gambill was twice married, first to Miss Julia Reagan, daughter of Daniel Reagan, who lived but a short time. He afterwards married Miss Catharine R. Lessop, who, with their

three sons, Albert, William and Holmes, survived him. Major L. W. Gambill died April 21st, 1876.

Joseph Travis Logan, the eighth clerk of the county court of Rockingham county, the son of George Logan and Phoebe T. Rohr, was born at Harrisonburg July 9th, 1834. At an early age he went into the office of the *Rockingham Register*, where he learned the printer's trade, and remained as a compositor in that office for a number of years. He afterwards engaged in the hat business in Harrisonburg; but on December 20th, 1858, Mr. Logan was appointed deputy by John R. Koogler, then elected sheriff of Rockingham county, and began the duties of that office January 1st, 1859. Mr. Logan continued a deputy sheriff until 1863, when he was elected sheriff of Rockingham county, which position he held during the war, and up to ——.

In 1869 Mr. Logan accepted a position in the United States internal revenue collector's office under Samuel R. Sterling, and retained this position under Mr. B. B. Botts, the successor of Mr. Sterling, until January 1st, 1871, when he took the position of deputy clerk of the county court of Rockingham county with William McK. Wartmann, clerk, and on the death of Mr. Wartmann, March 9th, 1872, Mr. Logan was appointed clerk of the county court, and held that office continuously until his death, being, we believe, the most popular, efficient and acceptable clerk that ever filled the office.

Mr. Logan was a model man in all his walks in life, faithful, honest and industrious in business, fervent and humble in spirit, and earnestly serving his Lord and Saviour, whom he loved, and whose footsteps he endeavored to follow from his youth to the day of his

death. He was dearly beloved by all who knew him; was a prominent and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church; for many years a class-leader, steward and superintendent of the Sabbath school; never bigoted or exclusive, but always liberal in his views, he was welcomed by all denominations and recognized and respected by them as a sincere Christian gentleman. So liberal and kind-hearted was he that no man, woman or child ever appealed to him in vain or went from his door empty-handed or unsupplied. And when that great day shall come and the deeds of all men are revealed, we believe that many will arise and call down blessings upon the head of Joseph T. Logan, that his crown will be studded with many stars, and that he will appear before his God bearing his sheaves with him.

Mr. Logan married Mrs. Addie H. Haas, of Shenandoah county, November ——, 1859, and died September 18th, 1885, after a lingering and painful illness of several years, leaving his devoted wife and two children to mourn his loss, and was succeeded by his faithful deputy, Joseph S. Messerley, who is now the clerk of the county.

Arthur St. Clair Sprinkel, the first clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham county, was the son of William Sprinkel and Sallie Ireland, and was born at Harrisonburg August 30th, 1815. Mr. Sprinkel was a furniture-maker by trade, and together with two brothers, Alfred and Nelson, he conducted the business in Harrisonburg until 1852, when he became a candidate and was elected at the election May 27, 1852, clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham county, which position he held until removed by order of General George

Stoneman, military commander of Virginia, March 26, 1869, when he was succeeded by A. L. Lindsey.

Mr. Sprinkel was appointed clerk of the county court of Rockingham by Judge James Kenney in March, 1870, when the county court was changed from the old magisterial system, and held that office until January 1st, 1871, when he was succeeded by William McK. Wartmann.

Mr. Sprinkel was an upright man, a faithful and competent clerk, and an elder in the Presbyterian church for many years. He was a man of few words, but was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

Mr. Sprinkel married Miss Julia A. Jordan, and died March 16th, 1872.

William McKenney Wartmann, the seventh clerk of the county court of Rockingham, was the son of Lawrence Wartmann, the old editor and founder of the *Rockingham Register*, and was born in 1819. William was raised in the printing office, and afterwards became one of the proprietors and editors of the *Register*, which paper he continued to edit and write for many years.

Mr. Wartmann was appointed commissioner in chancery for the circuit and county courts of Rockingham in 1854, and afterwards became the fiduciary commissioner of the county, which position he held until his death.

Mr. Wartmann became one of seventeen candidates for the office of clerk of the county court of Rockingham county at the November election, 1870, and by a combination with J. T. Logan and P. Herring, the three, with Wm. McK. Wartmann as the head, were

elected over L. W. Gambill by a small majority; and Mr. Wartmann, with J. T. Logan and P. Herring as deputies, went into office January 1st, 1871.

Mr. Wartmann did not live to enjoy his position long, as he died suddenly March 8th, 1872.

Mr. Wartmann married Miss Sallie Van Pelt, but died childless.

Captain Foxall A. Daingerfield, the third clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham county, was the son of LeRoy P. Daingerfield and Juliet O. Parker, and was born on his father's farm, "Westwood," on the Shenandoah river, in Rockingham county, February 8th, 1839.

Captain F. A. Daingerfield was educated in Captain George Terrell's military school, in Bath county, and in the school of P. M. Carter, at Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, and studied law in the law school of Judge J. W. Brockenbrough at Washington College, Lexington, Virginia. He went to California, where he resided several years, but returned to Virginia in 1861, at the breaking out of the war, entered the Southern army, and was captain of Company G, Eleventh Virginia cavalry, from Bath county.

Captain Daingerfield was a brave and daring soldier, dearly beloved and highly respected by his men. He received five wounds, and to-day carries the marks of one of the most desperate hand-to-hand encounters of the war.

Captain Daingerfield was appointed clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham county by Judge Robert Turner, May 11th, 1870, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the inability of Mr. J. H. Shue, who had been elected to the office, to take his seat, because his politi-

cal disabilities had not been removed; and he held the office until January 1st, 1872, when he was succeeded by Major L. W. Gambill.

Captain F. A. Daingerfield married Miss Henrietta H. Gray, daughter of Colonel A. S. Gray, November 4th, 1863.

Joseph H. Shue, the fifth clerk of the circuit court of Rockingham county, was the son of Mr. Abraham Shue, a tanner near Harrisonburg, and was born November 1st, 1819. At an early age he was apprenticed to learn the bookbinding business, which he worked at for a number of years at Harrisonburg and Baltimore, Maryland. In 185- Mr. Shue was appointed postmaster at Harrisonburg, and held that place until ——. He then purchased a small farm near Dayton, Rockingham county, and resided there until after the death of his wife in 1869.

Mr. Shue was a candidate for the office of clerk of the circuit court in November, 1870, and was elected, but, owing to his inability to take the test oath, he was unable to take the office. Mr. Shue was therefore compelled to seek other employment, and was engaged as a clerk in Washington and Baltimore. He returned to Rockingham in 1874 and took a position as watchman on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

In May, 1875, Mr. Shue was again a candidate for the clerkship of the circuit court, was elected, and, his political disabilities having been removed by Congress, he took the office July 1st, 1875, and held it until August 21st, 1883, when he died.

Mr. Shue was a member of the Methodist church and a prominent Mason.

Mr. Shue was assisted in the discharge of the duties of his position as clerk of the circuit court by Colonel D. H. Lee Martz.

RUSSELL COUNTY.

Russell was formed in 1786 from Washington. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Henry Dickinson, from 1786 to 1825, - 39 years.
2. James P. Carrell, from 1825 to 1854, - 29 years.
3. R. H. Lynch, from 1854 to 1862, - - 8 years.
4. George R. Cowan, from 1862 to 1870, - 8 years.
5. Jacob C. Gent, from 1870 to 1881, - - 11 years.
6. H. H. Dickinson, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. T. C. M. Alderson, from 1854 to 1862, - 8 years.
2. Granville Gilmer, from 1862 to 1870, - 8 years.
3. Jacob C. Gent, from 1870 to 1881, - - 11 years.
4. Henry H. Dickinson, from 1881 to 1887, 6 years.
   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

SCOTT COUNTY.

Scott was formed in 1814 from Lee, Washington and Russell. The clerks have been:

1. William H. Carter, from 1815 to 1816, - 1 year.
   ☞ He was comparatively a stranger in the county at the time of his appointment, but had been deputy in some eastern county, where he had learned

the duties of a clerk, and was very well qualified for the position, and was highly esteemed as such by the judge of the circuit court and by many of the justices, but not enough to secure his appointment at the regular election held a year after his first appointment, when he was succeeded by John McHenry, and removed from the county.

2. John McHenry, from 1816 to 1825, - - 9 years.
3. Jacob Lynch, (circuit court), from 1819 to 1825, - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
   ☞ He was a good clerk, and wrote a good hand.
4. John S. Martin, (clerk of county and circuit courts) from 1825 to 1845, - - 20 years.
   ☞ He was a young man at the beginning of his clerkship; acquired a large property both in lands (in which he invested largely in Illinois) and in slaves, but became an abolitionist or an emancipationist, even at that early day, giving freedom to all his slaves, and removing with them to Illinois, where he lived until after the war, highly esteemed for his character as an honest man and for his business qualifications. His ability and fidelity as a clerk were recognized and highly appreciated, as is evidenced by his long continuance in office, the duties of which he thoroughly understood, and his orders and records have been models for succeeding clerks.

5. James O. Wood, from 1845 to 1852, - 7 years.
☞ He wrote a beautiful hand; was well acquainted with the duties of his office, and was recognized as a good
6. clerk. *Isaac A. Gray*, who succeeded him in 1852 as clerk of the county court, employed Mr. Wood as his deputy, and, having lived only nine months after his election, Mr. Wood was appointed clerk *pro tempore*, and acted as such until the following year,
7. when *Smith H. Morrison* was elected to fill out Isaac A. Gray's unexpired term—that is, from 1852 to 1858, - 6 years. *Hansford W. Carter*, who succeeded James O. Wood as clerk of the circuit court in 1852, also employed him as his deputy, and he continued to act as such until Carter's accidental death (by the falling of a tree) towards the close of his term.
8. James L. Shoemaker, (county court), from 1858 to 1865, - - - - - - - - - 7 years.
☞ He is a man of very fine business qualifications; writes a fine business hand, and made a fair clerk.
9. S. P. McConnell, (circuit court), from 1858 to 1865, - - - - - - - - - - - 7 years.
☞ He was quite a young man at the time of his election as clerk, and learned to do the business of his office fairly well.
10. James O. Wood, (county court), from 1865 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - 4 years.

☞ At the election in August, 1865, on the reorganization of the State government, Charles Addington and S. P. McConnell were candidates for the county court clerkship; on the morning of the day before the election Major McConnell declined to make the race and came off the track. The news spread rapidly over the county, and by common consent it was announced that James O. Wood would serve, if elected. He was elected, and served until he was removed by military authority in 1869. He was highly respected, and one of the most popular men that ever lived in the county.

11. C. W. White, (circuit court), from 1865 to 1869, - - - - - - - - - - - 4 years. When he was removed by military authority.

Charles Addington, who was the military appointee as clerk of the county court in 1869, and *Arthur L. Manness*, as clerk of the circuit court, had but little qualification for their respective offices, though in other respects worthy men.

12. M. B. Wood, from 1870 to 1876, - - - 6 years.

☞ He was deputy under his father from 1866 to 1869, and although a mere boy at the time, he soon thoroughly mastered the duties of the office. In November, 1870, he was elected clerk

of both courts by an overwhelming majority, but was not a candidate for re-election in 1876. He writes a beautiful hand, and all of his orders and records are models of neatness and correctness. He has the reputation of having been the best clerk the county has ever had; and has also been county judge.

13. S. P. McConnell, (both courts), from 1875 to 1881, - - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
14. John M. Johnson, (county court), from 1881 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
15. William H. Riggs, (circuit court), from 1881 to 1887, - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
16. *C. M. Carter* was elected clerk of the county court in May, 1887. He is a young man, and is very popular, and promises to make a first-class clerk.
17. J. Henry Taylor was elected clerk of the circuit court in May, 1887, being the youngest man ever elected clerk in the county—barely twenty-one years old. He has been deputy in the county court office for some time, and, as he takes a pride in doing business correctly and neatly, he will doubtless make a fine clerk.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY.

Shenandoah was cut off from Frederick and established in 1772 under the name of *Dunmore;* but in October, 1777, after Lord Dunmore had taken such a decided stand against the colonists, one of the delegates from the county in the house of burgesses stated that "his constituents no longer wished to live in nor he to represent a county bearing the name of such a tory; he therefore moved to call it *Shenandoah*, after the beautiful stream which passes through it"; and it was done accordingly. The clerks have been:

1. Thomas Marshall, from 1772 to 1784, - 12 years.
2. John Williams, Jr., from 1784 to 1789, 5 years.
3. Philip Williams, from 1789 to 1845, - 56 years.
4. Samuel C. Williams, from 1845 to 1862, 17 years.
5. James G. Fravel, from 1862 to 1863, - 1 year.
6. R. M. Conn, from 1863 to 1865, - - - 2 years.
7. James G. Fravel, from 1865 to 1867, - 2 years.
8. Nathaniel Barton, from August, 1867, to October, 1867, (died), - - - - - 2 mos.
9. L. Edwin Dudley, from 1867 to 1868, - 1 year.
10. Joseph S. Irwin, from 1868 to 1870, - 2 years.
11. Wm. Smith Arthur, from April, 1870 to December, 1870, - - - - - - - - 9 mos.
12. George W. Miley, from 1871 to 1881, - 10 years.
13. L. S. Walker, from 1881 to 1887, - - 6 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

SKETCH OF PHILIP WILLIAMS.

The Williams family is of English origin, the Virginia branch having descended from Pierre Williams,

sergeant-at-law, of London. Three of his grandsons, John, William and Otho, emigrated to America. John settled in South Carolina, William in Virginia, and Otho in Maryland, from whom was descended General Otho H. Williams, of Revolutionary fame. John died childless; William had two sons, John and William. William married a daughter of Philip Clayton, and left five children, of whom Philip, the subject of this sketch, was the third son.

Philip Williams was born in the year 1771, near Culpeper Courthouse, where his father owned a large estate. In early life he moved to Shenandoah county, which then embraced all the territory now comprising Warren and a portion of Page counties. He was elected clerk of the courts of Shenandoah county August 27th, 1789, and held that office continuously until, at the June term of the county court in 1845, he declined re-election. Few men have ever served so long and uninterrupted terms of office with such general satisfaction and esteem of their fellow-citizens. Through a thorough official training and studious habits he became informed in the general principles and practice of the law, and familiar with the records of the courts. His youth had been disturbed by none of the vices or follies peculiar to his time, and his mature manhood was strengthened through a conscientious practice of moral and Christian virtues. He was an adherent of the Episcopal church, as his family had been in every generation. The principles of his early Christian life had been formed under the pastoral administration of St. Mark's parish, in Culpeper, which was established by act of assembly in 1730, eighteen years previous to the establishment of the county. He

was an official member of the congregation at Woodstock, worshiping in the church made famous by the patriotic sermon preached in the time of the Revolution by its pastor, the Rev. Peter Muhlenberg, when, after a most impassioned address upon the duties of life, in which he declared that there was a time for all things —a time to sow and to reap, a time to preach and pray, and a time to fight in the cause of liberty, and announcing that that time had come, he stepped down from the pulpit and proceeded to recruit one of the first regiments that marched from the South to join Washington.

He was unobtrusive in his manner and genial and self-possessed in all his associations. Although he never aspired to leadership in the affairs of either the church or politics, yet his counsel was always sought and acted upon. In politics he was an unswerving republican, or democrat, and advocated the doctrines of that party with an intelligent understanding that secured the confidence and support of his fellow-citizens. He became a leader without aspiring to that prominence. His intelligent exposition of the vexed issues of the times so strengthened the party in the county that, by reason of its overwhelming majorities, it was denominated the "Tenth Legion of Democracy." Yet, with all his political convictions and service to the party, he never sought nor aspired to any representative position, although often solicited to become a candidate for the highest local trusts. He was a partisan without bitterness; earnest without being dogmatic, and never suffered his political difference to embitter his social relations. He regarded the success of his party only as the triumph of correct political principles, and stu-

diously avoided giving offense through partisan criminations.

His term of office embraced the transition period, when counties were undergoing new limitations, the practice of the courts were being modified and society was emerging from primitive to more modern practices and customs. He was officially associated with a class of practitioners at the bar of unusual brilliancy, of whom some obtained eminence both on the *nisi prius* and appellate benches, and all were noted for high legal attainments.

The duties of his office were arduous, but he performed them with fidelity, and his intelligent efficiency won the approval of the court and the esteem of its officers.

After a service of fifty-four years he declined a re-election. Full of honors as of years, he determined to spend the remainder of his life in tranquil retirement, but he only survived this change for a few months, when, on the 15th of March, 1846, he departed this life, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. His remains were interred in the old Episcopal burying ground, at Woodstock, where a marble slab that marks his grave bears this significant statement: "He was clerk of the county of Shenandoah for fifty-four years, and he lived and died without an enemy."

At a court held for the county of Shenandoah on the 7th day of July, 1845, after he had declined a re-election to the office of clerk, and his successor, his son, Samuel C. Williams, had been appointed, the following resolutions were offered and adopted by the court, the members of the bar and officers of the court:

"Whereas, Philip Williams, Sr., having, at the last

term of the court, declined a re-election to the office of clerk of the county court of Shenandoah, and his successor having been appointed—

"*Resolved*, That the court cannot permit the opportunity to pass without expressing their deep sense of his long, arduous and faithful services in the office of clerk of this county, the duties of which he has discharged with the greatest honor to himself and fidelity to the public.

"*Resolved*, That while they deeply regret the loss which they as well as the public sustain, they can yet congratulate Mr. Williams upon his discharge from the onerous public duties which have so long pressed upon him, and they cherish the hope that, in his retirement, he may long enjoy the tranquility and repose to which his long public service so justly entitles him.

"*Resolved*, That these proceedings be entered on the minutes of the court, and that a copy be furnished for publication in the *Sentinel of the Valley*."

Joseph H. Samuels, in behalf of the bar and officers of the court, after making a few appropriate remarks, offered the following preamble and resolutions:

"Whereas, Philip Williams, since the 27th day of August, 1789, has discharged the duties of clerk of this court, and having declined a re-election, and his successor having been chosen—

"*Resolved unanimously by the officers of the court*, That as the relation which has so long subsisted between them and Mr. Williams has been severed, they cannot permit him to go into retirement without expressing their high sense of the uniform kindness and attention which characterized him in his relations to

them, and their grateful remembrance of his urbanity of manners and faithful discharge of duty.

"*Resolved*, That they tender to him, in his retirement from the labors of his office, their best wishes for his welfare and happiness, and that they express the hope that, withdrawn from the cares of public life, he may long enjoy the ease and leisure upon which he now enters, after his arduous, useful public services.

"*Resolved*, That permission be respectfully asked of the court to have our proceedings herein inscribed upon the minutes of the court.

"*Ordered*, That the aforesaid proceedings of the bar and officers of the court be entered upon the minutes of the court, and a copy be furnished by the clerk for publication.

D. Crawford,
"Presiding Magistrate.

"A copy—Teste:
"S. C. Williams, C. S. C."

SKETCH OF SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS.

Samuel C. Williams succeeded his father, Philip Williams, as clerk of the courts of Shenandoah county, first by election by the justices of the county, July 7th, 1845, and subsequently, from 1850, after the adoption of the new State constitution providing for the system of general elections by the qualified voters of the counties, he was elected to the succeeding terms up to the date of his death in 1862.

He was born at Woodstock, Virginia, September 13th, 1812, and died May 12th, 1862, at the age of fifty years, having served the county as clerk of its courts uninterruptedly for a period of seventeen years. He married Miss Sarah Ott, of Woodstock, and left

nine children, of whom General James H. and William T. are prominent lawyers at the Woodstock bar. Having served as deputy to his father for ten years preceding his election to that office, he was well qualified for the efficient discharge of its duties, and had already won the confidence of the court and its officers, which insured his election almost unanimously. He was also associated in the office, as deputy, with his brother, Philip Williams, Jr., who was then studying the law, and who afterwards rose to eminent distinction in the profession.

Like his father, he was a democrat, and had acquired the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens for unimpeachable integrity and a genial, sociable disposition; but differed in that he had a genius for politics, and suffered himself at times to be induced to accept representative relations. He was well informed, from very early life, upon all the important issues between the parties, and was intimately identified with all political and social questions. His thorough knowledge of the men and measures of his time fixed his relation as leader in the party, and adviser in and promoter of all social movements having the advancement of county interests as their object. In religion he was an Episcopalian, but for a number of years, during which time the Episcopal church had lost its congregational organization, he affiliated with the Presbyterians.

Previous to his election to the office of clerk he held important public trusts. In 1844 he was a delegate to the national convention which nominated James K. Polk for the presidency; and was successively appointed a delegate to the national conventions of 1848, 1852 and 1856, in which capacity he served satisfactorily to

his party and with credit to himself. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1850–51, and in 1861 was elected a member of the state convention which was called to consider the question of secession. In the canvass before the people he opposed the question of referring the action of the convention back to the people for ratification. He signed, along with Henry A. Wise and James Barbour, the minority report of the convention in favor of secession, before the proclamation of President Lincoln in April, 1861, calling for seventy-five thousand troops. He was twice elected a member of the legislature from Shenandoah, the terms embracing the years 1841, 1842 and 1843. He was an active partisan, trenchant in debate and subtle in the manipulations of party machinery, and invariably successful in all his canvasses. He frequently met in debate the champions of the whig and know-nothing parties, notably amongst whom were Hons. A. H. H. Stuart, John B. Baldwin, Charles Carter Lee and Philip Williams, all partisans of the highest order of talent.

In the development of the material interests of the county and great Shenandoah Valley, he was active in effort and comprehensive in design. He was a director in the Valley Turnpike Company, one of the earliest and best and most comprehensive improvements in the State, and contributed largely through his intelligent advocacy to the construction of that inter-state roadway. He was an early friend and later a director in the Manassas Gap Railroad Company that was to open up the valley section of the State to the seaboard cities. But, although he was active in pushing the enterprise, yet his prudence counselled opposition to an excessive contribution by the county, and through his earnest

endeavors he defeated the proposition, which was submitted to the citizens of the county at a general election. In after years the wisdom of his foresight was generally accorded.

Earnest and zealous in all that he undertook, he was ready at all times to sustain his convictions by personal sacrifices. When he returned, in 1861, from the convention whose deliberations resulted in a determination to withdraw from the Union, he, at the head of his company, the Muhlenberg Rifles, was among the first to respond to the state call for troops. He reported for duty at Harper's Ferry, but on account of rapidly failing health, he was unable to withstand the severities of the service, and was compelled to return to his home, where, after a lingering illness, he died on the 12th day of May, 1862.

L. S. WALKER

Was born in New Market, Shenandoah county, Virginia, August 6th, 1857. His early education was had in the schools of that town and at "The New Market Polytechnic Institute," where he graduated with the degree of A. B. in May, 1875.

He entered the clerk's office June 14th, 1875, as assistant clerk; was appointed deputy clerk April, 1879; was elected clerk of county court in May, 1881, by four hundred and sixty-nine majority, and was re-elected May, 1887, by a majority of two hundred and nineteen.

GEORGE W. MILEY.

Martin F. Miley and Catharine A. Rhodes, whose ancestors were "first settlers" in Shenandoah county, are the parents of George W. Miley, who was born and

raised in said county, on the farm known as "Clover Hill," situated four miles north from the courthouse. His nativity was September 18th, 1840, and during his minority was on the farm and at "Clover Hill Seminary," until the civil war, when he enlisted as a private in Company F, Tenth Virginia Volunteers, Army Northern Virginia.

He was married November 20th, 1865, to Tirzah A., daughter of William Baker; was appointed commissioner in chancery by the county and circuit courts respectively in 1866; was elected clerk of the county court in November, 1870. The population of the county was less than fifteen thousand, and, by virtue of his office, became clerk of the circuit court; was re-elected in November, 1874, and again in May, 1875—the amendment to the constitution having been adopted at the November election, 1874. The census of 1880 gave the county over fifteen thousand inhabitants, authorizing the election of a county court as well as a circuit court clerk. He was elected to the office of the latter in May, 1881, and again in May, 1887. His present term will end July 1st, 1893.

SMYTH COUNTY.

Smyth was formed from Washington and Wythe in 1832. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Robert Beatie, from 1832 to 1839, - - 7 years.
2. James F. Pendleton, from 1839 to 1858, 19 years.

☞ He went into the office as deputy for R. Beatie, and performed all the

duties, Beatie giving very little attention to them. He was superintendent of the penitentiary from 1858 to 1872. The records of his office bear ample testimony to his careful and diligent attention to the duties of the clerk's office, and his administration of the penitentiary was highly efficient. He was reared in Culpeper county, and was the brother of Hon. John S. Pendleton and of Albert G. Pendleton, a distinguished lawyer of Giles county, Va.

3. W. C. Sexton, from 1858 to 1887, - - 29 years.
Re-elected in May, 1887.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. Peter C. Johnston, (brother of General Joseph E.), from April, 1832, to May, 1836, (resigned). - - - - - - - - 4 years.
2. A. B. Moore, from 1836 to 1847 (resigned), 11 years.
☞ His brother, Thomas A. Moore, was clerk and deputy clerk of Jefferson county forty-seven years.
3. James F. Pendleton, from 1847 to 1852, 5 years.
4. Edward A. Scott, from 1852 to 1860, (resigned) - - - - - - - - - - 8 years.
5. John S. Copenhaven, from 1860 to 1869, (removed), - - - - - - - - - - 9 years.
6. C. F. Lincoln, (military appointee) from 1869 to 1870. - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
7. E. L. Roberts, from 1870 to 1875, - - 5 years.
8. W. C. Sexton, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.

W. C. Sexton.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Southampton was formed in 1748 from Isle of Wight. The clerks have been:

1. Richard Kello, from 1748 to 1773, - - 25 years.
2. Samuel Kello, from 1773 to 1798, - - 25 years.
3. Samuel Kello, Jr., from 1798 to 1815, - 17 years.
4. James Rochelle, from 1815 to 1835, - - 20 years.

   ☞ See sketch of him below.

5. Littleton Richard Edwards, from 1835 to 1883, - - - - - - - - - - - - 48 years.

   ☞ Born in Brunswick county, June, 5th, 1800; for several years deputy clerk in that county: appointed deputy under James Rochelle in 1827: and on his death in 1835 was appointed clerk of the courts of Southampton, which he continued to be until his death in 1883—the long period of forty-eight years. At the close of the late war, Major Edwards was disqualified from holding the office, but it was held under the *military government* by others for his benefit, and he was really clerk during the period of his disability. As soon as he became eligible he was again elected to the offices, in name as well as in fact, when he was seventy years old. No higher testimony could be furnished of the estimate in which he was held as a clerk.

6. Joseph B. Prince, from 1883 to 1887, - 4 years.

   Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

MEMORIAL OF JAMES ROCHELLE.

James Rochelle, son of John and Judith (Gilliam) Rochelle, was born in the year 1786, at his father's place, called "The Hermitage," in Southampton county, Virginia. In 1815, at the age of twenty-nine, he was chosen by the magistrates of the county clerk of Southampton, an office which he held for twenty consecutive years. On the 19th of April, 1817, he was married to Mrs. Martha Blow (Hines) Gray, daughter of William and Martha (Blow) Hines, and widow of Dr. Henry Miles Gray. James Rochelle died on the 17th of August, 1735, in the fiftieth year of his age, and was buried at "The Hermitage," the place where he was born. His widow, Mrs. Martha (Hines-Gray) Rochelle, survived him. His only children who passed the age of childhood, were two sons, John William and James Henry, and one daughter, Martha Blow.

The name of James Rochelle has not been connected with any remarkable public events; but he has left a name for irreproachable purity and integrity of character that is of priceless value to his descendants. He was a high model and type of the old Virginia clerk, intelligent, scrupulously careful and attentive to all his official duties, and with a polite and pleasing manner to all around him. He enjoyed the friendship and confidence of many of the most distinguished men of his day, not only in Southampton but elsewhere, and his office was regarded as the best of all schools for a young man who wished to make the law his pursuit in life. Among others who placed themselves under his instruction was George H. Thomas, afterwards the distinguished federal general in the late war, as to whom the

following extract from "Van Horne's Life of Major-General George H. Thomas," (page 2), makes interesting mention. "The first twenty years of his life were spent in a quiet home, subject to the moulding influences of a refined family and elevating external associations. In his twentieth year he completed with honor the prescribed course of study of the Southampton Academy, located near his home. Soon after his graduation he entered the office of James Rochelle, his uncle, who was county clerk at the time. While acting as deputy clerk he commenced the study of the law; but another career soon offered itself. At that time the Hon. John Y. Mason represented the congressional district which embraced Southampton county, and having an appointment to a cadetship at the military academy at West Point to offer to some young man in his district, he called upon Mr. Rochelle, and offered it to his nephew. Mr. Rochelle said, in reply, 'Let us call the boy, and ascertain what he thinks of the proposition.' The 'boy' accepted promptly, and the legal profession lost a worthy candidate for its duties and honors, while the profession of arms gained one of its highest ornaments."

As showing the estimate in which Mr. James Rochelle was held as a wise and judicious instructor of young men in the duties of the clerkship, the following extract is given of a letter addressed to him (dated June 12th, 1813) by the Hon. Edwin Gray, representative in congress:

"*Dear Sir:*—Mr. Kello having been so kind as to permit my son, James, to write in the clerk's office for his improvement, and to prepare him for the study of law, I have sent him now for that purpose. He will live with his uncle, and it is my wish that he may ren-

der himself useful to you. Permit me to ask the favor of you to advise and instruct him in the business he undertakes."

Other letters, addressed to Mr. Rochelle by persons of prominence and distinction at that day, have been placed in my hands to be used according to my discretion. Some of these are too long to be published entire, but extracts will be given sufficient to show that he was in correspondence with those persons who occupied public positions in the general assembly and in the congress of the United States, and that he was looked upon as a man of uncommon intelligence and influence, whose opinions and counsels were held in high esteem.

(1) A letter from Hon. James Trezvant, member of congress, dated April 23d, 1826, refers to the *Panama mission* as having occupied much of the time of congress, against which he states that he voted, as being "a departure from the settled policy of the country as recommended by Washington in his farewell address."

(2) A letter from Albert Gallatin, dated 29th May, 1826, in which he advises with Mr. Rochelle as to a suggestion made by Mr. Gallatin to the secretary of war, with the approbation of the president, that "measures be taken to collect comparative vocabularies of all the languages and dialects of the Indian tribes existing within the United States. Circulars will be addressed to all the Indian superintendents and agents, and to the missionaries with whom the department has correspondence. But they have no agent with the *Nottoways*, and we are fortunate that you should be disposed to lend your aid as to them."

(3) A letter from Hon. John Y. Mason (dated January 11, 1828), then in the senate of Virginia, in which

the politics of the day are freely discussed, especially as to the appointment of presidential electors for the *election* of that year; among other things saying: "The Adams convention is now in session here. They have made out an electoral ticket on which the names of James Madison and James Monroe are placed. I have no idea that either of them will serve: but the Adams men are all anxious that their cause should be aided by great names." Farther on, he says: "On the subject of the circuit court bill, I thank you for your confidence and friendly suggestions. I have not yet made up my mind on the subject. It is one of immense magnitude, and I fully appreciate the responsibility of my situation. For a novelty, I believe that there will be no artillery opened on the *clerks* this winter. If there be, I shall, as formerly, stand by them."

(4) A letter from Hon. John Y. Mason, a member of the constitutional convention of Virginia, dated Richmond, December 18, 1829. He expresses great fear that the convention will accomplish *no good;* among other things saying: "The body is so equally divided into geographical parties, that every question is divided by nearly the same votes. Sitting by Mr. Madison the other day, and the house being nearly divided on some unimportant question, the old man remarked to me that he believed if a motion were made that *two and two would make four*, it would produce a division of the house. Indeed, if any other argument were wanting to show that this convention should never have been called, it would be found in this striking disparity of views. The idea of breaking up the foundations of a government which for fifty-four years has produced so much happiness, and against

which not one solitary charge of misrule can be brought, would, to an unprejudiced mind, seem the last extreme of madness and folly."

(5) A letter from Hon. John Y. Mason, a senator in the general assembly of Virginia, dated Richmond, March 22, 1831, in which he says, among other things: "The general assembly have passed the bill fixing the tenure of the clerks' office at seven years, and authorizing two-thirds of the county court to dismiss. You can form no idea of the violence of many of the members against judges, clerks and sheriffs. You need not give yourself any uneasiness as to your office, for no opposition can affect you."

At the time of Mr. Rochelle's death, highly complimentary resolutions were adopted by the court of which he was clerk, and the following *obituary*, prepared by James Strange French, Esq., was published in the Richmond *Enquirer* of August 26, 1835:

"Died, at his residence in Southampton county, on the night of the 17th instant, in the fiftieth year of his age, James Rochelle, Esq. For twenty years he was clerk of the superior and inferior courts of his county, and discharged the various duties with so much ability and urbanity of manner as to win the confidence and regard of all who knew him. A victim of pulmonary consumption, he lingered for about five years, the greater part of the time confined to his bed; yet he murmured not at his fate, but sustained himself throughout with the most unshaken fortitude, even cheerful when not suffering acutely with pain. One who long knew him can say, that a more remarkable example of patience was never exhibited. Confined so long, and under circumstances so well calculated to irritate the

mind, he was never seen out of temper with a servant, or heard to utter an unkind syllable in reference to an acquaintance. No man has ever left us whom the country has more just reason to regret. No man was ever watched over with more untiring devotion; no man ever had dearer friends, or qualities better calculated to inspire the warmest friendship. No man ever lived who, in all the relations of life, was more scrupulously honest, and I have never known one so pure, so gentle, so benevolent. As a husband, father, friend, and master, his example was all that is beautiful and bright; and long, long will his memory be cherished with the deepest affection by each one who stood in the above relations. He has left a wife, three children and numerous friends to mourn his irreparable loss, and their greatest consolation must be in contemplating the purity of his character."

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY.

INCLUDING THE CORPORATION OF FREDERICKSBURG.

Spotsylvania was formed in 1721 from Essex, King William and King and Queen, and named for Alexander Spotswood, (sometimes spelled Spottiswood), who

was at that time governor of the colony of Virginia. The clerks have been:

1. John Waller, from 1722 to 1742, - - - 20 years.
2. Edmund Waller, (son of John), from 1742 to 1751, - - - - - - - - - - - 9 years.
3. William Waller, (son of John), from 1751 to 1759, - - - - - - - - - - - 8 years.
4. John Waller, (son of William), from 1760 to 1774, - - - - - - - - - - - 14 years.
5. John Waller, Jr., (son of John, Sr.), from 1774 to 1786, - - - - - - - - - 12 years.
6. John Chew, from 1787 to 1802, - - - 15 years.
7. Robert S. Chew, from 1802 to 1818, - - 16 years.
8. R. L. Stevenson, from 1819 to 1835 - - 16 years.
9. Therit Towles, from 1835 to 1836, (died), 1 year.
10. Stapleton Crutchfield, from 1836 to 1850, 14 years.
11. Robert C. Dabney, from 1850 to 1875, - 25 years.
12. Francis C. Beverly, from 1875 to 1881, - 6 years.
13. J. P. H. Crismond, from 1881 to 1887, 6 years.

Clerks of Corporation Court of Fredericksburg.

1. Henry Armistead, from 1782 to 1787, - 5 years.
2. John Chew, from 1787 to 1806, - - - 19 years.
3. Robert S. Chew, (son of John), from 1806 to 1826, - - - - - - - - - - - 20 years.
4. John J. Chew, (son of Robert S.), from 1826 to 1870, - - - - - - - - - 44 years. With an *interregnum* of two years in reconstruction times.
5. Robert S. Chew, (son of John J.), from 1870 to 1886, when he died, - - . 16 years.
6. R. B. Berry, from 1886 to 1887, - - - 1 year. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

Thus the clerkship of the corporation of Fredericksburg continued for a century in one family, descending from father to son, and all capable, efficient and valuable public officers. John J. Chew and Robert S. Chew were also clerks of the circuit court of Spotsylvania county (which embraced Fredericksburg) until a separate circuit court was created for Fredericksburg in 1874, when Robert S. Chew become the clerk of that court.

John J. Chew married Miss Patton, a sister of the distinguished jurist, John M. Patton; and during J. J. Chew's official service such eminent lawyers as Judge Robert Stanard, Judge John W. Green, Judge John Taylor Lomax, John M. Patton, Arthur A. Morson and Judge Richard C. L. Moncure practiced law in the courts of Fredericksburg.

Colonel John Waller, *Gentleman*, (an appendage to their names that he and all his sons used during life in their deeds and other important papers), the first clerk of Spotsylvania, was the son of the English emigrant, John Waller, and of his wife, Mary Key. He married Dorothy King, and lived on his estate, "New Port," in Spotsylvania. His children were Mary, who married Zachary Lewis, Edmund, (second clerk), John, Thomas, William, (third clerk of the county), and Benjamin, who became the celebrated Judge Waller, of Williamsburg. The silver seal of Colonel John Waller, *Gentleman*, is still in existence, though it has passed into the possession of a family descended from his daughter, and not of the Waller name. The coat-of-arms consists of a shield, the contour of which is highly ornamented. The shield is crossed obliquely by a band, on which are three walnut leaves, one above another. The crest is

an oak tree, from the branches of which is suspended on the right side a shield on which are *fleurs de lis*, representative of the arms of France. This shield was added to the Waller arms after the battle of Agencourt, in which engagement the then head of the family greatly distinguished himself. The motto originally belonging to the court of arms is "*Hæc fructus virtutis*," and is on the silver seal of Colonel John Waller, Gentleman. He was sworn in as the first clerk of Spotsylvania, at Germanna, August 1, 1722, and died in 1754. It is supposed, though not positively known, that he was buried in the family burying-ground at Newport.

Edmund, son of John Waller, Gentleman, was the second clerk of Spotsylvania. The family name of his wife is not known—her christian name was Mary. Among their children was John Waller, who afterwards became the well-known Baptist preacher, who was bound by his father as an apprentice to study law. The chestnut tree, under the branches of which Edmund Waller kept his office, is still alive and standing. He resigned his clerkship in 1751, and finally removed from the county, but when, it is not known.

Colonel William Waller, third clerk of the county, son of Colonel John Waller, Gentleman, was born in 1714. He married Ann ———. Her family name is not given. He appears to have been a man of unusual business capacity, and greatly depended on by his family and by others in business matters. His mother left him in her will, among other things, her Book of Common Prayer, which shows, as is well known, that the old Waller clerks belonged to the Church of England, and the opening clause of his will indicates that he was a man of exemplary piety.

John Waller, fourth clerk of the county, was the eldest son of Colonel William Waller, and married a Miss Booker, formerly spelled Bouchier.

SKETCH OF ROBERT STANARD CHEW.

Robert S. Chew, son of John J. Chew, was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in the year 1828. His edutional advantages were of a superior character, and at an early age he selected medicine as a profession. After the usual course at college he graduated with distinction; having received his diploma, he entered at once upon the practice of his profession, locating for that purpose at Martinsburg, Virginia, now West Virginia, where he remained for about one year. Although successful in his chosen calling, he determined to relinquish the practice of medicine and engage in clerical work, for which he was peculiarly fitted, and which, it seems, was more congenial to his tastes. He returned to his native city and accepted a position of honor and responsibility in the Bank of Commerce, which position he held until the breaking out of the war. He entered the service in April, 1861, as captain of Company B, Thirtieth regiment Virginia infantry, and on the reorganization of the army, in 1862, was promoted lieutenant-colonel, and in 1864, attained the full rank of colonel, serving as such until the final surrender at Appomattox.

After the surrender at Appomattox he came home, and as soon as practicable entered into business. It was not long, however, before he was offered and accepted a situation in Memphis, Tennessee, in which city he remained until 1870, when, at the request of the lawyers of Fredericksburg, he returned to Fredericks-

burg, and became a candidate for the position of clerk of the corporation court, to which he was elected, and which he held, by successive election and re-election, until his death, in August, 1886.

His thorough fitness and qualification for the position were pre-eminent, and he was justly regarded as one of the best (if not the very best) clerks in the State. With a ripe experience, thorough clerical training, and a mental vigor and perception scarcely equaled, he was particularly fitted for the responsible and intricate duties of the position which he honored for so many years. As commissioner in chancery he was careful and painstaking, which, with his thorough knowledge of the science of accounts, and intelligent appreciation of the rights of parties, made his reports and accounts models of sound judgment and clerical excellence.

STAFFORD COUNTY.

Stafford was formed in 1675 from Westmoreland. Owing to the mutilated condition of the records of this county, and the destruction of many of them by fire, and by the federal troops during the late war, no satisfactory or complete information can now be gathered concerning the old clerks. A record book of the date of 1813 shows that Dr. V. Y. Peyton was clerk from 1809 to 1813, when he resigned in favor of John M. Conway, who held the office from that time until 1852, when H. R. Conway was elected; and he was re-elected in 1858 to serve six years, which he did.

☞ A note from a member of the Fredericksburg bar, in sending me the foregoing information, has the following memorandum: "C. A. Tackett is the present clerk of the county and circuit courts of Stafford. *John M. Conway* was a man of liberal education, and an intelligent, faithful clerk, and a highly esteemed citizen. Judge Richard C. L. Moncure married his daughter, who is still living. His son, Eustace Conway, was circuit judge. H. R. Conway was his son, and trained in his office. The circuit judges, during the clerical term of John M. Conway and H. R. Conway, were Judge Dade, John Scott, John W. Tyler, Henry W. Thomas. Among the lawyers practicing in the Stafford courts during the same period were Arthur A. Morson, John M. Patton, Richard C. L. Moncure, John M. Forbes, Eppa Hunton.

The following list of names and periods of service is as nearly accurate as can now be made, but is supposed to embrace all the clerks since the Revolution.

1. John T. Ford, from about 1780 to 1809, 29 years.
   ☞ See autobiography of Robert Hutchins, clerk of Caroline, and what he says of J. T. Ford.
2. V. Y. Peyton, from 1809 to 1815, - - 6 years.
3. John M. Conway, from 1815 to 1852, - 37 years.
4. Henry R. Conway, from 1852 to 1863, - 11 years.
5. George N. Moncure, from 1863 to 1869, 6 years.
6. R. H. Bryan, } Supposed to be mili-
7. Edward Towson, } tary appointees, - - 2 years.
8. C. A. Tackett, from 1871 to 1887, - - 16 years.

John M. Conway

SURRY COUNTY.

Surry was formed from Isle of Wight in 1652. The clerks have been:

1. Robert Stanton, from 1652 to 1653, - - 1 year.
2. George Watkins, from November 17th to November 20th, 1652, - - - - - - *3 days.*
3. William Edwards, from 1653 to 1697, - 44 years.
4. Francis Clements, from 1697 to 1708, - 11 years.
5. John Allen, from 1708 to 1751, - - - 43 years.
6. C. A. Claiborne, from 1751 to 1754, - 3 years.
7. William Nelson, from 1754 to 1781, - - 27 years.
8. Jacob Faulcon, from 1781 to 1801, - - 20 years.
9. John Faulcon, from 1801 to 1829, - - 28 years.
10. Walter S. Booth, from 1829 to 1839, - 10 years.
11. Wm. P. Underwood, from 1839 to 1869, 30 years.
    ☞Removed April, 1869, by General Canby, and J. C. Underwood appointed in his place, who left the state a few months after his appointment. He was succeeded by John Forncrook until April, 1870.
12. J. R. Fitchett, from 1870 to 1871, when he died, - - - - - - - - - - - 1 year.
13. A. S. Edwards, from 1871 to 1887, - - 16 years.
    Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

SUSSEX COUNTY.

Sussex was formed in 1754 from Surry. The clerks have been:

1. Augustine Claiborne, from 1754 to*
2. J. C. Bailey.
3. L. Lanier.
4. John J. Prince.
5. George W. Prince.
6. W. H. Hikok.
7. T. S. Morgan.
8. J. D. Thornton.
9. J. H. Dobie, from 1876 to 1887, and re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

TAZEWELL COUNTY.

Tazewell was formed in 1779. The clerks have been:

1. John Ward, from 1779 to 1805, - - - 26 years.
2. John Crockett, from 1805 to 1838, - - 33 years.
3. G. W. G. Brown, from 1838 to 1852, - 14 years.
4. S. L. Graham, from 1852 to 1858, . - 6 years.
5. J. W. Thompson, from 1858 to 1869, - 11 years.
6. R. B. Gillespie, from 1869 to 1875, - - 6 years.
7. J. R. Doak, from 1875 to 1881, - - - 6 years.
8. W. G. Harrisson, from 1881 to 1887, - 6 years.
9. T. E. George, elected in 1887 for six years.

* Owing to the destruction and mutilation of many of the old records during the late war, the dates of service of the clerks cannot be given with any accuracy, and are therefore not given at all.

WARREN COUNTY.

Warren was formed in 1836 from Frederick and Shenandoah. The clerks have been:

1. Robert Turner, from 1836 to 1861 (died), 25 years.
2. Thomas N. Ashby, from 1861 to 1864, - 3 years.
3. Ewell Baker, from 1865 to 1869, - - - 4 years.
4. Jeremiah Kebler (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - - 1 year.
5. Ewell Baker, from 1870 to 1881 (died), 11 years.
6. William A. Compton, from 1881 to 1883, 2 years.
7. C. A. Macatee, from 1883 to 1887, - - 4 years. Re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

☞ Besides a biographical sketch of Colonel Robert Turner, the first clerk of Warren, prepared by Giles Cook, Esq., the present clerk has furnished a brief notice of the other clerks, and also a scrap of history connected with the county of Warren during the Pierpont government, which is of a somewhat romantic interest, and presents the little county in a very favorable view for the *pluck* and independence of its court officials.

WARREN COUNTY AND ITS CLERKS.

Warren county was organized March 24th, 1836, taken from the counties of Frederick and Shenandoah.

Colonel Robert Turner, who had served as deputy in the clerk's office of Shenandoah, was elected clerk of the county court and also of the circuit court, and served as such until his death, July 23d, 1861.

Thomas N. Ashby, Esq., was appointed by the court August 1st, 1861, to fill the office made vacant by the

death of Colonel Turner, to serve as such until his successor shall have been elected, and an election for said purpose ordered to be held on September 5th, 1861, at which election said Thomas N. Ashby was elected for the unexpired term of the late Colonel Turner, who had been elected for a term of six years from the 1st day of July, 1858, and was succeeded by Captain Ewell Baker, who was elected on the 18th day of July, 1865, and qualified on the 21st day of August, 1865 (being the first court held in the county after the surrender), and among the proceedings of the court at that term is the following:

"Ordered that the following preamble and resolutions be put on the records of this court:

"Whereas, on the third Monday in August, 1865, being the regular day for holding the court of this county, the members of said court, duly elected and commissioned under authority of the restored government of the state of Virginia, having assembled for the purpose of lawful organization, and taking the various oaths prescribed by the general assembly of Virginia in such cases made and provided; but previous to the completion of said organization by the qualification and execution of bonds of the clerk and executive officers pertaining to the court, the precincts of said court were entered by a person assuming to be an officer and two men in the uniform of the United States army, accompanied by a female, named Mary, or Peggy, Northern, who approached the clerk's table, interposing themselves between the court and its clerk, then in session, rudely demanding the immediate delivery of certain papers belonging to the records of the circuit court of this county, with threats of violence

if the said papers were not instantly procured for them, emphatically declaring at the time that they had full authority for the demand from the military commander, as also for making arrests in case of refusal; and, whereas, the said officer and men, in pursuance of their threat, did actually arrest Thomas N. Ashby, the late clerk of the circuit court, in whose lawful possession the said papers were, with declared intent to take him to Winchester; and, whereas, the proceedings of the said court of the county were forcibly interrupted and its lawful action prevented, by reason of the violent intrusion of military power; and, whereas, the peace of the commonwealth and the due administration of justice require that the courts shall be secure against violence or outrage of any description, and that the records and papers belonging to the records of said court shall be made safe and secure against any description of force that may be resorted to for the purpose of illegally abstracting papers or records from the custody of the lawful keepers of the same; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That as the paper sought for was not among the records of this court, and as a similar demand may be made for records or papers rightly belonging to this court, and inasmuch as there is provision made by law for the withdrawal of records from the clerk's office of the court, this court will assuredly refuse to deliver the same, except in the manner indicated in the laws of Virginia.

"*Resolved*, That the commanding officer of the United States forces in the Valley be earnestly requested to take such action in the premises as will in future secure the courts of this county from military interruption or violence.

"It is further ordered that a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded, by the clerk of this court, to the officer in command of the forces of the United States in the Valley."

The clerk's office was administered by Captain Baker until July 19th, 1869, at which time he was removed by order of General E. Canby, commanding first military district of Virginia, and by whose order Jeremiah Kebler, Esq., was appointed clerk, and who qualified and served as such until May 16th, 1870, being the first term of the county court under the present constitution, when Captain Ewell Baker was appointed clerk by the court, to serve until his successor was elected; and, at a general election, held on the 8th day of November, 1870, Captain Baker was again elected clerk, and continued in office until his death, on the 13th day of October, 1881.

William A. Compton, Esq., was, by the court, appointed clerk, and served as such until July 1st, 1883, when C. A. Macatee, who was elected on the 24th day of May, 1883, for the unexpired term of the late Captain Baker, took charge of the office, and who was again elected on the 26th day of May, 1887, for the term of six years.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ROBERT TURNER.

Robert Turner (familiarly known among his friends by his military title of Colonel) was born in 1790, in that part of Frederick county which was subsequently embraced in Warren county. His father was Hezekiah Turner, who was, in the early years of this century, the county surveyor of Frederick. In his youth he was a store-boy in the town of Front Royal,

and afterwards removed to Shenandoah county, where he was employed as manager of a large iron establishment, known as Arthur's Furnace. Subsequently he married the daughter of Philip Williams, then the clerk of Shenandoah county, and was employed by him as deputy in his office, the duties of which he faithfully performed for many years.

In 1836 the county of Warren was formed from parts of Shenandoah and Frederick, and the county seat established at Front Royal; and Colonel Turner became a candidate in competition with several popular young men. His superior qualifications were so well known and acknowledged that he received the appointment of clerk of both courts. Afterwards, when these offices became eligible by the people, he was continued in office by the popular vote until his death in 1861.

During all these years he was a faithful public officer, and as a clerk had no superior in the State. Indeed, the records of the courts from 1836 to 1861 bear testimony to his great skill and admirable methods of business.

The first wife of Colonel Turner died at an early age, and he married a second wife, a most amiable and excellent woman, who survived him only a few years. They left three children, all of whom now reside in Front Royal, viz., Hon. R. H. Turner, judge of the twelfth judicial circuit, Dr. J. H. Turner, a popular physician, and S. S. Turner, Esq., a lawyer of distinction.

WARWICK COUNTY.

Warwick is one of the original shires into which Virginia was divided in 1634. It was originally a large territory, but some other counties being subsequently formed from it, it is now one of the smallest in the State. At the commencement of the late war the court records were removed to Richmond for safe-keeping, and were destroyed by the great fire when Richmond was evacuated. Owing to this fact, no list of names and dates of service of the old clerks can now be furnished, and those that follow go back no farther than the memory of living persons will enable us to trace them, that is to say, from the year 1835.

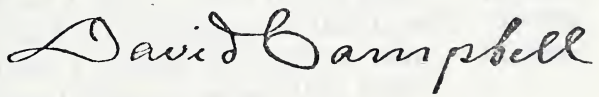
Samuel Shields was clerk in 1835.

1. H. R. D. Brown, was clerk in 1846.
2. William Robinson, was clerk in 1850.
3. William B. Jones, (known as *Hell-cat Billy Jones*), from 1851 to 1861, - - 10 years.
   ☞ The court records having been removed, no courts were held during the war.
4. William C. Minor, (probably a military appointee), from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.
5. William B. Jones, (Hell-cat), from 1869 to 1875, - - - - - - - - - - 6 years.
6. H. H. Wynne, from 1875 to 1887, - - 12 years.
7. Henry de B. Clay, elected in May, 1887, for six years.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Washington was formed in 1776 from *Fincastle* county, which was, in the year 1772, cut off and formed from Botetourt, and embraced all of Southwestern Virginia lying south and west of the Botetourt line, which was New river. In 1776, four years afterwards, the county of Fincastle was divided into three counties, viz: Washington, Kentucky and Montgomery, and the name of Fincastle became extinct. Washington county, during the whole of the Revolution, and up to 1786, embraced within its limits all Southwest Virginia southwest of the Montgomery line, including parts of Grayson, Wythe and Tazewell, all of Smyth, Scott, Russell and Lee. The clerks have been:

1. David Campbell, from 1777 to 1779, - 2 years.
   ☞ He resigned in 1779 and removed to Tennessee, where he afterwards became distinguished as a lawyer and judge.
2. John Campbell (son of the above), from 1779 to 1815, - - - - - - - - - 36 years.



3. David Campbell (son of John Campbell), from 1815 to 1837, - - - - - - - 22 years.
   ☞ He was elected Governor of Virginia in 1837, and served as such for the full term of three years. He was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twentieth

regiment United States army, in the war of 1812; a member of the senate of Virginia from 1820 to 1824. Born August 7, 1779; died March 19, 1859.

4. Jacob Lynch, from 1837 to 1858, - - 21 years.
   ☞ He had been deputy under Governor Campbell. See his voluntary testimony to the character of J. Lynch.
5. John G. Kreger, from 1858 to 1865, - 7 years.
6. Jas. C. Campbell (great-great-grandson of David Campbell and a nephew of Governor David Campbell), from 1865 to 1869, when he was removed by military authority, - - - - - - - - - 4 years.
7. Charles McDougal (military appointee), from 1869 to 1870, - - - - - - 1 year.
8. Leonidas Baugh, from 1870 to 1871, - 1 year.
9. William G. G. Lowry, from 1871 to 1887, 16 years.
10. David C. Cummings (great-grandson of the first D. Campbell), elected May, 1887.

Clerks of Circuit Court.

1. Andrew Russell, from 1809 to 1838, - 27 years.
2. Conally F. Trigg, from 1838 to 1852, - 14 years.
3. Peter J. Branch, from 1852 to 1865, - 13 years.
4. David C. Cummings, from 1865 to 1871, 6 years.
5. Lewis T. Crosby, from 1871 to 1887, - 16 years.
6. John G. Kreger, elected May, 1887.

Andrew Russell.

MEMORIALS OF DAVID CAMPBELL AND JACOB LYNCH.

The compiler of these "Memorials of Old Virginia Clerks" had hoped to procure a biographical sketch of

David Campbell, the third clerk of Washington county, but has failed to do so. Two papers have, however, been placed in his hands, which will be read with interest, and are here given as illustrating the admirable character of ex-Governor David Campbell, both being voluntary testimonials to the worth of persons between whom and himself there had formerly existed the most intimate and friendly relations, though occupying entirely different spheres of life—*Jacob Lynch*, as his faithful and trusted *deputy* in the clerk's office, and *Eliza Draper*, as his equally faithful and trusted *servant*.

JACOB LYNCH.

"Being about to leave the clerk's office of the county of Washington, (to assume the duties of governor of Virginia), and having been connected with Mr. Jacob Lynch in business for the last twenty-five years, I feel it to be my duty to offer him the following voluntary testimonial of my opinion of his qualifications as a public officer and merits as a man.

"Mr. Lynch came into the clerk's office upwards of twenty-five years ago, and has performed the duties of deputy clerk ever since, first under the former clerk, then under myself when I became the principal. I consider his qualifications as a clerk equal to any gentleman within my knowledge. I need not say more, as his qualifications are well known to the gentlemen of the bar, to all the justices of the county and to the people generally. Of his private virtues I will speak more particularly, and it may be presumed that I am well acquainted with them after so long an intimacy. I estimate Mr. Lynch as one of the few gentlemen who,

in private life, has had the prudence so to conduct himself as to show no faults or foibles, as far as I could discover. Although always firm in his opinions and purposes, open and candid in his manner, yet I have never heard him express an uncharitable or even a hasty or passionate opinion about any one. I believe no temptation could induce him to violate these golden rules, or to stoop from the character of a good man to inflict pain upon the humblest being in society. My pecuniary transactions with him have been extensive, and I have always found him in money matters equally exemplary, uniformly fair and liberal, and performing his promises with the utmost punctuality.

"To sum up all, I would say that Mr. Lynch is a man of good mind and acquirements, having the best qualifications as a clerk, generous and liberal in his feelings towards all, and of the most spotless integrity.

"DAVID CAMPBELL."

ELIZA DRAPER.

"The following memorandum was made immediately after the death of Eliza Draper, this being the name by which she was baptized:

"1848, July 28th. Died this morning, at half-past one o'clock, our servant woman, Eliza Draper, after a protracted attack of fever, which lasted over eleven weeks. She was worn down to a skeleton, and died like an infant going to sleep; and we hope that God has blotted out all her transgressions, and that she enjoys the happiness of the good. Eliza was born the 16th day of January, 1816, and therefore died in the thirty-third year of her age. She was a most dutiful and faithful servant to her mistress and master; and

although of a high temper naturally, yet, for many years past, most submissive to their commands. She was treated by them with mildness, and she repaid it with the most devoted attachment. They feel her loss and grieve for her as they would for a relative whom they loved. She had for years past been the waiting-woman of her mistress, now very infirm. God has willed, and no doubt for wise purposes, that she should be taken away, and we bow to His chastisement with humble resignation. DAVID CAMPBELL."

CLERKS OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Few, if any, of the counties of the State of Virginia can boast of clerks of the circuit courts of higher character, and of better adaptability to the work of the office, than the county of Washington.

Claiborne Watkins was clerk of the district court; went into office in 1779. Of him the writer of these notes knows but little—nothing personally. Members of his family were occasional visitors at and near Abingdon, when the writer was a boy. Mr. Watkins was a gentleman of high character, and filled the office with great acceptability.

Andrew Russell, first clerk of the circuit court of Washington, was a man highly respected for his uprightness and honesty. He was for many successive periods a presidential elector for that congressional district.

Conally F. Trigg, a lawyer of eminent ability, who had few equals at the bar, went into office May 12th, 1838. Mr. Trigg was gentlemanly in his bearing, and was the friend of the entire people whose acquaintance he made. The duties of the office were discharged

with great acceptability. In 1855 or 1856 he removed to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he soon was recognized as the peer of any lawyer at that bar. He was appointed July 2d, 1862, by President Lincoln, to the judgeship of the United States circuit and district courts for the western district of Tennessee. By his firmness and decision upon the bench (being conservative in temperament and disposition) he contributed as much, if not more, than any one person in Tennessee in quieting the turbulent elements of the state during the terrible days of *reconstruction*. Conally F. Trigg was born in Abingdon, Virginia, March 8th, 1810, and died at his home near Bristol, Tennessee, April 25th, 1880, and was buried at Abingdon.

Peter J. Branch succeeded Mr. Trigg in 1852, and continued in office till August, 1865. He was a native of Chesterfield county, Virginia, but came to Washington when a young man. He was born August 26th, 1796, and died 10th January, 1873. He was of French origin. Captain Branch was a clerk of no ordinary capabilities. His office work was well and promptly executed—his handwriting very superior. He maintained the high character of his predecessors for efficiency in all office work.

David C. Cummings succeeded Captain Branch in August, 1865. Colonel Cummings was also for many years clerk of the county court. See a further notice of him appended hereto:

David Campbell Cummings, who was clerk of the circuit court, was a grandson, and his son, David C. Cummings, was a great-grandson of "Parson" Cummings, known as "the fighting parson," who was one of the pioneers of that county. He was a Presbyterian

clergyman, and a log cabin was erected at the place where Abingdon was afterwards made a town, in which he preached to the few settlers in that region. He was a very pious and honored man, and his memory is still greatly revered in all that country; and, though a preacher, he was always ready to defend his family and neighbors against the Indians, with whom he had more than one lively encounter, always taking his rifle into the pulpit with him when he preached. There may be seen in the cemetery at Abingdon, near which he lived in a small log cabin, a rough head-stone, on which the following inscription is cut in Roman letters: "Henry Creswell lies interred here, July, 1776." Creswell, Piper and Parson Cummings had been attacked by a body of Indians, and in the fight that ensued Creswell was killed, and was buried on the spot by his companions, with this headstone and inscription to mark his grave.

The two families of Campbell and Cummings have held the clerkship of Washington county during the greater part of its existence.

During the days of *reconstruction*, Dr. A. R. Preston, of Abingdon, was appointed clerk of the circuit court, who continued Colonel D. C. Cummings in office as his deputy, who entered upon the duties of the office October 25th, 1869. Dr. Preston did not discharge any of the duties of the office, confiding it to Colonel Cummings.

L. Thomson Cosby succeeded Colonel Cummings January 1st, 1871, and continued in office until July 1st, 1887. Mr. Cosby was born in Buckingham county, Virginia, but, with his parents, came to Abingdon in childhood. He entered the confederate service August

1862, in Captain Jones'—later Captain C. T. Litchfield's—company, First Virginia Cavalry, and remained in the field until the close of the war.

Mr. Cosby was first elected clerk of the circuit court in November, 1870, and held said office until July, 1887, having been successively re-elected without any opposition. He proved himself worthy the confidence of his constituents and the public at large, and gave the fullest satisfaction in the discharge of his official duties. In Mr. Cosby's bearing as a public officer, he was always gentlemanly, and took no ordinary pleasure in looking after the interests of all who confided their business to his hands. The business of the office was neatly and always promptly done.

John G. Kreger, a native of Washington county, succeeded Mr. Cosby, July 1st, 1887, and, from his long experience as deputy and then clerk of the county court of Washington county, the business of the office of the circuit court may be expected to be well and acceptably done. Probably few men in the county have a stronger hold upon public confidence than Mr. Kreger, and the business of his office will not suffer in his hands.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

Westmoreland was cut off of Northumberland in 1652, but its boundaries do not appear to have been fixed until this was done by an "act of the general assembly" of July, 1653. It has been called "the Athens of Virginia," from the fact that some of the most renowned men in this country have been born within its borders. Amongst these may be mentioned

George Washington, Richard Henry Lee and his three brothers, William, Francis and Arthur; Henry Lee, James Monroe, and last, but not least, Robert E. Lee. The records of Westmoreland county date back to the year 1652, but they seem to have been kept with no regularity or care, and the name of the first clerk does not appear until January 25th, 1654, where it is signed for the *first* and *last* time, so that the date of his service cannot be ascertained. Following the order in which the names of the clerks appear on the records, they are:

1. Edward Dale, supposed to be from 1652 to 1662, - - - - - - - - - - - 10 years.
2. John Rynes, from 1662 (date of his first signature) to August, 1664, when his will is recorded, - - - - - - - - 2 years.
3. Richard Auburne, first and only signature 9th December, 1690.
4. James Westcomb, first signature January 24, 1690, last signature July, 1709, - 19 years.
5. Thomas Sorrell, first signature January 20, 1715, last signature October, 1726, 11 years.
6. George Turberville, from 1726 to 1742, 16 years.
7. George Lee, from 1742 to 1761, - - - 19 years.
8. James Davenport, from 1762 to 1776, - 14 years.
   ☞ Signed his name very irregularly to certificates of deeds, etc., sometimes at intervals of one, two and three years.
8. (2d) Richard Bernard, first signature 29th March, 1774, and last signature November, 1774, (eight months.) There seems to have been a contest between Davenport and Bernard, as their names and signatures run into each other.

9. Presley Thornton, from 1776 to 1785, - 11 years.
10. Richard Bernard, from 1777 to 1785.
    ☞ There seems to have been another contest between the two last, as their names and signatures run into each other.
11. Richard Parker, from 1785 to 1786, - - 1 year.
12. James Bland, from 1786 to 1799, - - - 13 years.
13. Joseph Fox, from 1799 to 1823, - - - 24 years.
14. John Graham, from 1824 to 1831, - - 7 years.
15. William Hutt, from 1831 to 1850, - - 19 years.
    ☞ See proceedings of the court at the time of his death.
16. J. Warren Hutt, from 1850 to 1887, - 37 years.
    Re-elected in May, 1887.

MEMORIAL OF WILLIAM HUTT.

The present clerk of Westmoreland, in sending me the foregoing list of names and, so far as they can be ascertained, the dates of service of the old clerks, accompanies it with the following statement, which indicates plainly that he is a worthy son and successor of a worthy father, which is fully attested by the fact that he has been continued in the office of clerk for the long period of thirty-seven years. In these days of change and thirst for rotation in office, a man must have superior merit to hold the clerkship so long:

"In regard to the capacity and fidelity of the clerks who were appointed prior to the date at which *William Hutt* appears on the stage of action, I am not prepared to speak, and as I am the son and successor of William Hutt, I feel some delicacy in regard to saying anything in regard to his qualifications, but will let the

preamble and resolutions adopted by the court, after his death, speak for him."

Proceedings of the Court.

At a court held for the county of Westmoreland on the 25th of November, 1850, the following preamble and resolutions were presented and adopted, and ordered to be spread upon the records of the court:

"It was announced to the court, its bar and officers that since the last term it has pleased Him who holds the destinies of us all to remove from our midst our valued friend and associate, William Hutt, the clerk of this court. The death of any prominent citizen is calculated to inspire the community with feelings of regret; but, upon this occasion, we are called on to lament not only an eminent citizen but one who was bound to us all by the ties of personal friendship, and whose connection with the affairs of the county in the various offices he held and discharged with singular faithfulness and ability, makes his the more keenly felt throughout this whole community. Mr. Hutt was clerk of our courts, commissioner in chancery, and treasurer of our poor schools. To the discharge of all these offices he brought the most unbending integrity and enlightened judgment, great industry and kind and conciliatory manners and deportment. He was endowed with a mind singularly clear and discriminating. In early life he had made the law a part of his studies, though not with a view to its exercise as a profession; and as a statute lawyer few were his superiors. The store of knowledge thus acquired it was his pleasure to impart to others; and this court and bar acknowledge with pride the valuable counsel and assistance often

received from him in their official connection. In private life our departed friend exhibited all the virtues which adorn the relations we are called to sustain. In him, the tender, affectionate husband and father, the kind brother, the humane master, the sincere friend and honest, upright man, all found a faithful representative. These things made him esteemed while with us, and will cause him long to live in our memories now that he is departed. As a token of respect to his memory, we adopt the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That we receive with sorrow the tidings of the death of William Hutt, Esq., late clerk of this court, and we tender to his widow and to his family our heart-felt sympathy in their bereavement.

"*Resolved*, That as a mark of respect for the deceased, the members of the court, and of the bar, and the officers of the court, will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be entered among the minutes of this court, and a copy thereof be sent to Mrs. Hutt, and published in the Richmond *Whig* and Alexandria *Gazette*.

"*Resolved*, As a further mark of respect to the deceased, that the court do now adjourn."

Here was a high type and model of "the old Virginia clerk." F. J.

WISE COUNTY.

Wise was formed in 1856 from Russell, Scott and Lee. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. Morgan T. Lipps, from 1856 to 1858, and by successive elections to February, 1869, when he was removed by military authority, - - - - - - - - - - - 13 years.
2. F. G. Wells, from 1870 to 1871, and by successive elections to 1881, - - - 11 years.
3. William J. Kilgore, from 1881 to 1887, 6 years.
4. J. E. Lipps, from 1887 to 1893, - - - 6 years.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. K. C. Perkey, from 1865 to 1869, - - 4 years.

WYTHE COUNTY.

Wythe was formed in 1790 from Montgomery. The clerks have been:

Of the County Court.

1. John C. Crockett, from 1790 to 1812, - 22 years.
2. John P. Matthews,* from 1812 to 1842, 30 years.
3. Harold S. Matthews, from 1842 to 1861, 19 years.
4. William B. Foster, from 1870 to 1887, - 17 years.

* John P. Matthews was one of the best known and most highly respected men in Southwestern Virginia, well informed and possessed of excellent social qualities, and greatly esteemed by the court and bar. He married a daughter of General Alexander Smythe.

Of the Circuit Court.

1. James R. Miller, from 1812 to 1851, - 39 years.
2. William A. Stuart,* from 1851 to 1861, 10 years.
3. James Trucks, from 1861 to 1869, - - 8 years.
4. William B. Foster, from 1870 to 1887, - 17 years.
   And re-elected in May, 1887, for six years.

YORK COUNTY.

York is one of the eight original counties (or shires) into which Virginia was divided in 1634. The following have been the clerks:

1. Robert Booth, from 1640 to 1652, - - 12 years.
2. Thomas Ballard, from 1652 to 1690, - 38 years.
3. William Sedgwick, from 1690 to 1707, - 17 years.
4. Philip Lightfoot, from 1707 to 1736, - 29 years.
5. Matthew Hubbard, from 1736 to 1745, - 9 years.
6. Thomas Everard, from 1745 to 1784, - 39 years.
7. Robert H. Waller, from 1784 to 1806, - 22 years.
8. Samuel Shield, from 1806 to 1849, - - 43 years.
9. Bolivar Shield, from 1849 to 1866, - - 17 years.
10. Lem Van Boskirk, from 1866 to 1877, - 11 years.
11. A. F. Hudgins, from 1877 to 1887, - - 10 years.

* William A. Stuart was a popular and efficient clerk, and after his retirement from that position, developed unusual capacity and enterprise in business matters, which have enabled him to amass a large fortune. Being part owner of the salt works in Washington county, he, with his partners, operated them successfully during the late war; and he is now the sole owner of the Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs, besides an immense body (probably fifty thousand acres) of valuable lands in Russell county.

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Irvine, Joseph S.....Shenandoah county.

J.

Jackson, John.....Accomac county.
Joynes, Thomas R.....Accomac county.
Jones, John.....Brunswick county.
Jones, Charles Binns.....Brunswick county.
Jamieson, John.....Culpeper county.
Jones, Cadwallader.....Cumberland county.
Jennings, William H.....Fauquier county.
Jennings, William A.....Fauquier county.
Johnston, Edward.....Giles county.
Judkins, William H.....Greensville county.
Jones, Benjamin T.....Henry county.

Jordan, T. R.....Halifax county.
Jennings, John.....Isle of Wight county.
Jennings, Charles.....Isle of Wight county.
Janney, Charles P.....Loudoun county.
Johnson, John R.....Montgomery county.
Jones, Catesby, Jr.....Northumberland county
Jones, Thomas, Jr.....Northumberland county
Jackson, Harmann.....Nottoway county.
Jorgenson, Joseph.....Prince Edward county.
Jones, H. P.....Pittsylvania county.
Jenkins, Andrew.....Richmond city.
Jeffress, J. F. B.....Richmond county.
Jeffress, Isaac S.....Richmond county.
Johnston, Frederick.....Roanoke county.
Johnson, John M.....Scott county.
Johnston, Peter C.....Smyth county.
Jones, William B.....Warwick county.

K.

Kinney, Jacob.....Augusta county.
Kinney, Chesley.....Augusta county.
Kinney, Nicholas C.....Augusta county.
Kasey, McLeod.....Bedford county.
Keith, James.....Frederick county.
Knox, Thomas P.....Loudoun county.
Kinnan, John.....Matthews county.
Ker, D.....Middlesex county.
Kilby, John T.....Nansemond county.
Kirkman, Jeta.....Northampton county.
Kendall, Gilmore S.....Northampton county.
Kello, Richard.....Southampton county.
Kello, Samuel, Sr.....Southampton county.
Kello, Samuel, Jr.....Southampton county.
Kebler, Jeremiah.....Warren county.
Kreger, John G.....Washington county.
Kilgore, William J.....Wise county.

L.

Lord, Francis.....Accomac county.
Leigh, John T.....Amelia county.
Leigh, Egbert G.....Amelia county.
Loving, William.....Amherst county.
Lucas, A. F.....Amherst county.
Lyle, James.....Augusta county.
Lackland, William M.....Botetourt county.
Lindsay, William.....Carroll county.
Lee, Hugh H.....Clarke county.
Lightfoot, Thomas.....Culpeper county.
Lightfoot, F. T.....Culpeper county.
Lee, John.....Essex county.
Lee, John, Jr.....Essex county.

Lee, Hancock.....Essex county.
Lundy, F. J.....Grayson county.
Lightfoot, Henry.....Isle of Wight county.
Littleton, Edgar.....Loudoun county.
Littlepage, James.....Louisa county.
Lindsay, John.....Louisa county.
Littlepage, John.....Nansemond county.
Locker, James.....Northampton county.
Loving, S. H.....Nelson county.
Lee, Richard.....Northumberland county
Lauck, William C.....Page county.
Lipscomb, Philip D.....Prince William county.
Le Nave, John.....Prince Edward county.
Lane, —.....Prince George county.
Larew, J. H.....Pulaski county.
Lawton, William P.....Pulaski county.
Logan, Joseph T.....Rockingham county.
Lynch, R. H.....Russell county.
Lynch, Jacob.....Scott county.
Lincoln, C. F.....Smyth county.
Lanier, I.....Sussex county.
Lowry, W. S. G.....Washington county.
Lynch, Jacob.....Washington county.
Lee, George.....Westmoreland county.
Lipps, J. E.....Wise county.
Lipps, Morgan T.....Wise county.
Lightfoot, Philip.....York county.

M.

Madison, John.....Augusta county.
McClanahan, Alexander.....Augusta county.
McDanald, C. R.....Bath county.
Muncey, C. P.....Bland county.
Mitchell, Robert C.....Bedford county.
McDowell, James.....Botetourt county.
May, John.....Botetourt county.
May, David.....Botetourt county.
May, Charles Edward.....Brunswick county.
Marshall, George W.....Carroll county.
Munford, Robert.....Charles City county.
McGuire, D. H.....Clarke county.
McCartney, T. B.....Craig county.
Martin, J. P.....Craig county.
Mauzy, Fayette.....Culpeper county.
Mauzy, W. M.....Culpeper county.
Mann, William H.....Dinwiddie county.
Matthews, William Baynham.....Essex county.
Micou, James Roy.....Essex county.
Moss, William.....Fairfax county.
Moss, Thomas.....Fairfax county.
Moss, Alfred.....Fairfax county.

Marshall, A. J.....Fauquier county.
Miller, William.....Goochland county.
Miller, Narcissus W.....Goochland county.
Miller, William, Jr.....Goochland county.
Mallory, D. C.....Grayson county.
McCammant, Samuel.....Grayson county.
Matthews, G. H.....Grayson county.
Miller, Daniel.....Greene county.
Mason, Edmund.....Greensville county.
Medley, James.....Halifax county.
Medley, James, Jr.....Halifax county.
Matthews, J. H.....Henry county.
Matheney, Jacob C.....Highland county.
Morecock, W. H. E.....James City county.
Moore, Thomas A.....Jefferson county, W. Va.
McCarty, Thaddeus.....Lancaster county.
Moody, A. A.....Lancaster county.
Morrison, J. W. S.....Lee county.
Morgan, Henry J.....Lee county.
Miller, George S.....Matthews county.
Miller, Shepard G.....Matthews county.
Muse, Thomas.....Middlesex county.
Montague, R. D.....Montgomery county.
McCorkle, James.....Montgomery county.
Matthews, Edward.....Northampton county.
Mellinger, William.....Northampton county.
McDonald, J. J.....Northumberland county
Massie, Thomas J.....Nelson county.
Martin, Alvah A.....Norfolk county.
Miller, Thomas.....Powhatan county.
Mann, Edwin Murray.....Petersburg.
Moseley, E. H.....Princess Anne county.
Matthews, John D.....Prince George county.
Menifee, William J.....Rappahannock county.
McCarty, Bartholomew.....Richmond county.
McCauley, William.....Roanoke county.
McCaul, P. H.....Roanoke county.
Messerley, John S.....Rockingham county.
McWilliams, Samuel.....Rockingham county.
Moore, J. P.....Rockbridge county.
McHenry, John.....Scott county.
Martin, John S.....Scott county.
Morrison, Smith H.....Scott county.
McConnell, S. P.....Scott county.
Marshall, Thomas.....Shenandoah county.
Miley, George W.....Shenandoah county.
Moore, A. B.....Smyth county.
Moncure, George V.....Stafford county.
Morgan, T. S.....Stafford county.
Macatee, C. A.....Warren county.
Minor, William C.....Warwick county.

McDougal, Charles.....Washington county.
Miller, James S.....Wythe county.
Matthews, John P.....Wythe county.
Matthews, Harold S.....Wythe county.

N.

Nicholas, John.....Albemarle county.
Neville, George.....Botetourt county.
Nelson, William.....Caroline county.
Nicholas, Edmund.....Cumberland county.
Nicholas, John.....Dinwiddie county.
Neighbors, Thomas.....Elizabeth City county.
Nulton, J. A.....Frederick county.
North, John A.....Greenbrier county, W. Va
Nelson, John.....Louisa county.
Neech, Daniel.....Northampton county.
Nicholas, John.....Orange county.
Nimmo, William T.....Princess Anne county.
Norville, William H.....Prince William county.
Nelson, Edwin.....Prince William county.
Nelson, William.....Surry county.

O.

Oldham, Montcalm, Jr.....Accomac county.
Orgain, A. M.....Dinwiddie county.
Orr, James W.....Lee county.
Osman, L. C.....Prince William county.

P.

Peyton, Henry J.....Augusta county.
Points, William J.....Augusta county.
Poulson, Robert J.....Accomac county.
Prentis, Robert R.....Albemarle county.
Pharr, John R.....Alleghany county.
Payne, Lewis E.....Alleghany county.
Peachy, T. Griffin.....Amelia county.
Peers, George T.....Appomattox county.
Porter, S. A.....Bath county.
Pelham, Peter Jr.....Brunswick county.
Pratt, Boyce M.....Buckingham county.
Poindexter, Park.....Chesterfield county.
Pendleton, John.....Carroll county.
Pendleton, John S.....Carroll county.
Payne, Charles B.....Culpeper county.
Phipps, Columbus.....Dickinson county.
Phillips, William F.....Fauquier county.
Peck, James B.....Giles county.
Porterfield, G. W.....Giles county.
Payne, George.....Goochland county.
Pritchett, Robert.....Greene county.
Page, Z. K.....Greene county.

Pelham, Peter, Jr.....Greensville county.
Potts, John W.....Greensville county.
Pollard, William, Sr.....Hanover county.
Pollard, William, Jr.....Hanover county.
Pollard, Thomas.....Hanover county.
Pollard, W. T. H.....Hanover county.
Pollard, Robert.....King and Queen county.
Pollard, Robert, Jr.....King and Queen county.
Pollard, Robert.....King William county.
Pollard, Robert, Jr.....King William county.
Pollard, Robert Byrd.....King William county.
Pollard, James Otway.....King William county.
Pollard, William Daudridge.....King William county.
Phillips, John.....Lancaster county.
Powell, William A.....Loudoun county.
Poindexter, John.....Louisa county.
Poindexter, Nicholas J.....Louisa county.
Parsons, Samuel H.....Louisa county.
Porter, Jesse J.....Louisa county.
Patterson, John.....Matthews county.
Price, Thomas.....Middlesex county.
Prentis, Peter B.....Nansemond county.
Poke, Godfrey.....Northampton county.
Preeson, Jerubbabel.....Northampton county.
Pitts, E. D.....Northampton county.
Payne, George.....Pittsylvania county.
Poindexter, James.....Powhatan county.
Poor, John C.....Prince William county.
Parham, Henry.....Prince George county.
Pollock, D. S.....Pulaski county.
Peyton, Benjamin F.....Rappahannock county.
Peachy, Leroy.....Richmond county.
Pendleton, F. W.....Richmond county.
Pollard, Benjamin.....Richmond city.
Pendleton, James F.....Smyth county.
Prince, Joseph B.....Southampton county.
Peyton, V. Y.....Stafford county.
Prince, John J.....Sussex county.
Prince, George W.....Sussex county.
Parker, Richard.....Westmoreland county.
Perkey, K. C.....Wise county.

Q.

Quarles, Robert S.....Bedford county.

R.

Reynolds, Johnson.....Alleghany county.
Repass, F. F.....Bland county.
Reid, B. W.....Botetourt county.
Robinson, John.....Brunswick county.
Ratliff, John S.....Buchanan county.

Reid, R. E.....Campbell county.
Robinson, Benjamin.....Carroll county.
Robinson, Joseph.....Carroll county.
Read, Thomas.....Charlotte county.
Robinson, Winslow.....Charlotte county.
Richardson, F. D.....Fairfax county.
Richardson, F. W.....Fairfax county.
Rogers, James.....Fauquier county.
Reilly, Robert L.....Fauquier county.
Rice, Benjamin.....Franklin county.
Reilly, T. A. Tidball.....Frederick county.
Reilly, J. P.....Frederick county.
Reilly, J. P., Jr.....Frederick county.
Reilly, J. C.....Frederick county.
Redd, Waller.....Henry county.
Reamy, Sanford.....Henry county.
Robinson, Joseph.....King George county.
Read, Clement.....Lunenburg county.
Robinson, Christopher.....Middlesex county.
Rogers, Lewis P.....Norfolk county.
Randolph Peter.....Nottoway county.
Rucker, Larkin G.....Patrick county.
Reid, J. H.....Prince William county.
Reterick, R. M.....Rappahannock county.
Reterick, Edward C.....Rappahannock county.
Reid, Andrew.....Rockbridge county.
Reid, S. McDowell.....Rockbridge county.
Robinson, John.....Richmond city.
Riggs, William H.....Scott county.
Roberts, E. L.....Smyth county.
Rochelle, James.....Southampton county.
Robinson, William.....Warwick county.
Russell, Andrew.....Washington county.

S.

Snead, Robert.....Accomac county.
Snead, Charles.....Accomac county.
Savage, Lewellyn.....Accomac county.
Scott, William M.....Alleghany county.
Seaton, George C.....Alexandria county.
Seaton, George.....Amherst county.
Stribling, Erasmus.....Augusta county.
Steptoe, James.....Bedford county.
Steptoe, James C.....Bedford county.
Steptoe, John R.....Bedford county.
Speece, John M.....Bedford county.
Stith, Drury.....Brunswick county.
Saunders, George M.....Buchanan county.
Sutherland, W. H.....Carroll county.
Smith, William A.....Charlotte county.
Smith, William.....Charlotte county.

Swann, Thompson.....Cumberland county.
Seymour, L. D.....Elizabeth City county.
Smith, John A W.....Fauquier county.
Shelor, William B.....Floyd county.
Shepard, A., Jr.....Fluvanna county.
Schlater, William.....Fluvanna county.
Smith, Stephen.....Franklin county.
Scott, Robert A.....Franklin county.
Sherrard, J. H.....Frederick county.
Stuart, John.....Greenbrier county.
Stuart, Lewis.....Greenbrier county.
Spotts, Mark L.....Greenbrier county.
Sims, William F.....Greene county.
Stephenson, Adam.....Highland county.
Slovern, Thomas H.....Highland county.
Smith, John W.....King George county.
Stewart, John G.....King George county.
Smith, Edward.....King George county.
Stanford, Vincent.....Lancaster county.
Stretchley, Jotham.....Lancaster county.
Shearman, Thomas.....Lancaster county.
Saunders, Presley.....Loudoun county.
Sinclair, James.....Loudoun county.
Smith, Armistead.....Matthews county.
Smith, Sands.....Matthews county.
Sloan, J. M.....Matthews county.
Stanard, William.....Middlesex county.
Skipwith, Grey.....Middlesex county.
Segar, Richard M.....Middlesex county.
Stringer, Hilary.....Northampton county.
Stith, Griffin.....Northampton county.
Savage, Thomas Lyttleton.....Northampton county.
Stith, John R.....Nottoway county.
Staples, Samuel.....Patrick county.
Staples, Abram.....Patrick county.
Staples, Samuel G.....Patrick county.
Staples, Abram, Jr.....Patrick county.
Scruggs, Langhorne.....Pittsylvania county.
Shepherd, William B.....Pittsylvania county.
Smith, Willis B.....Powhatan county.
Sayre, Charles.....Princess Anne county.
Sayre, Arthur.....Princess Anne county.
Savage, George.....Princess Anne county.
Strawhand, James E.....Princess Anne county.
Sinclair, M. B.....Prince William county.
Sturdivant, N. B.....Prince George county.
Sherlock, James.....Richmond county.
Saunders, George.....Richmond county.
Shield, Alfred.....Richmond city
Sprinkle, Arthur C.....Rockingham county.
Steele, Joseph G.....Rockbridge county.

Shoemaker, James L.....Scott county.
Sexton, William C.....Smyth county.
Scott, Edward A.....Smyth county.
Stephenson, R. L.....Spotsylvania county.
Staunton, Robert.....Surry county.
Shield, Samuel.....Warwick county.
Sorrel, Thomas.....Westmoreland county.
Shield, Samuel.....York county.
Shield, Bolivar.....York county.
Sedgwick, William.....York county.
Stuart, William A.....Wythe county.

T.

Taylor, Bennett.....Albemarle county.
Tacey, Jefferson.....Alexandria county.
Townes, James.....Amelia county.
Tinsley, Robert.....Amherst county.
Tracey, J. W.....Bland county.
Tazwell, Littleton.....Brunswick county.
Turnbull, Robert.....Brunswick county.
Turnbull, Charles.....Brunswick county.
Turnbull, Edward Randolph.....Brunswick county.
Turnbull, Edward Randolph, Jr.....Brunswick county.
Taylor, George Keith.....Caroline county.
Tabb, Johnson.....Elizabeth City county.
Turner, John R.....Fauquier county.
Timberlake, John.....Fluvanna county.
Tate, Caleb.....Franklin county.
Tidball, T. A.....Frederick county.
Thawley, John.....Gloucester county.
Turner, Joseph.....Greensville county.
Turner, E. L.....Greensville county.
Taylor, John R.....Hanover county.
Turberville, Edward.....King George county.
Turner, Thomas.....King George county.
Turner, Harry.....King George county.
Tunstall, ——.....King and Queen county.
Taylor, B. T.....King and Queen county.
Taylor, Joseph.....Lancaster county.
Towles, Henry.....Lancaster county.
Towles, James.....Lancaster county.
Thompson, S. E.....Lee county.
Taylor, William.....Lunenburg county.
Taylor, William H.....Lunenburg county.
Thomas, Reuben S.....Madison county.
Tabb, John.....Mecklenburg county.
Tabb, Edward L.....Mecklenburg county.
Trice, Robert N.....Middlesex county.
Thacker, Edwin.....Middlesex county.
Trigg, Abram.....Montgomery county.
Thacker, Chicheley Corbin.....New Kent county.

Taylor, Charles.....New Kent county.
Taylor, George.....Orange county.
Taylor, James.....Orange county.
Taylor, George C.....Orange county.
Todd, Bartlett P.....Petersburg.
Tunstall, William, Sr.....Pittsylvania county.
Tunstall, William, Jr.....Pittsylvania county.
Tunstall, William H.....Pittsylvania county.
Tuggle, Henry.....Patrick county.
Tarpley, T.....Richmond county.
Taylor, J. Henry.....Scott county.
Towles, Theret.....Spotsylvania county.
Tackett, C. A.....Stafford county.
Towson, Edward.....Stafford county.
Thornton, J. D.....Sussex county.
Thompson, J. W.....Tazewell county.
Turner, Robert.....Warren county.
Trigg, Conally F.....Washington county.
Thornton, Wesley.....Westmoreland county.

U.

Upshur, C. B.....Northampton county.
Underwood, W. P.....Surry county.
Underwood, J. C.....Surry county.

V.

Vaughan, Henry C.....Alleghany county.
Vaughan, E. H.....Halifax county.
Van Bostwick, Lem.....York county.

W.

Wise, John.....Accomac county.
Washburn, John.....Accomac county.
Wood, J. Snowden.....Albemarle county.
Wilcox, Edward.....Amelia county.
Wilson, Joseph.....Bedford county.
Wilson, G. W.....Botetourt county.
Woltz, Ferdinand.....Botetourt county.
Worsham, Branch.....Buckingham county.
Wilson, Robert W.....Campbell county.
Watkins, Benjamin.....Chesterfield county.
Watkins, Thomas.....Chesterfield county.
Warrell, Esom.....Carroll county.
Walker, Wyatt.....Charles City county.
Waddill, Edmund.....Charles City county.
Woodson, Miller.....Cumberland county.
Woodson, Miller, Jr.....Cumberland county.
Woodson, Blake B.....Cumberland county.
Wager, William.....Elizabeth City county.
Westwood, W.....Elizabeth City county.
Wagoner, Peter.....Fairfax county.

Withers, David.....Fauquier county.
Wood, Berkley.....Fauquier county.
Wood, James.....Frederick county.
Wood, Henry.....Goochland county.
Wood, Valentine.....Goochland county.
Wagere, A.....Frederick county.
Woodrum, Hugh.....Giles county.
Watts, Ballard P.....Giles county.
Wimbish, John.....Halifax county.
Williams, Samuel.....Halifax county.
Winston, P. B.....Hanover county.
Winston, W. O.....Hanover county.
Whitlock, Izzard B.....Henrico county.
Waddill, Samuel P.....Henrico county.
Wombwell, Thomas.....Isle of Wight county.
Woodson, Thomas.....Isle of Wight county.
Wise, Richard A.....James City county.
Winston, O. M.....King William county.
Walker, Benjamin M.....King William county.
Wells, Alexander W.....Lee county.
West, John B.....Lee county.
Wise, William N.....Loudoun county.
Webb, William W.....Lunenburg county.
Webb, William W.....Lunenburg county.
Walker, John, Jr.....Madison county.
Wade, James M.....Montgomery county.
Wade, John C.....Montgomery county.
Wade, Charles J.....Montgomery county.
Woodward, P. T.....Middlesex county.
Waters, William.....Northampton county.
Worder, N. J.....Northampton county.
Wilson, William J.....Northampton county.
Wilson, Willam, Jr.....Norfolk county.
Wilson, William H.....Norfolk county.
Willis, Henry.....Orange county.
Watson, John W.....Page county.
Woodhouse, John J.....Princess Anne county.
Watkins, Francis.....Prince Edward county.
Wagoner, Peter.....Prince William county.
Worsham, B. J.....Prince Edward county.
Williams, John.....Prince William county.
Williams, Peter.....Prince William county.
Williams, McSamuel.....Prince William county.
Warren, L. D.....Richmond county.
Wood, James O.....Scott county.
Wood, M. B.....Scott county.
White, C. W.....Scott county.
Walker, S. L.....Shenandoah county.
Williams, John, Jr.....Shenandoah county.
Williams, Philip.....Shenandoah county.
Williams, Samuel C.....Shenandoah county.

Watkins, George.....Surry county.
Waller, John.....Spotsylvania county.
Waller, Edmund.....Spotsylvania county.
Waller, William.....Spotsylvania county.
Waller, John, (son of William).....Spotsylvania county.
Waller, John, Jr.....Spotsylvania county.
Ward, John.....Tazewell county.
Wells, F. G.....Wise county.
Waller, Robert H.....York county.

Y.

Young, H. H.....Alexandria county.
Younger, John W.....Craig county.
Young, Francis.....Isle of Wight county.
Young, James.....Isle of Wight county.
Young, Nathaniel.....Isle of Wight county.
Young, Nathaniel P.....Isle of Wight county.
Yates, John L.....Lunenburg county.
Yeatman, Thomas R.....Matthews county.

Z.

Zentmeyer, John N.....Floyd county.

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